

# COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

### SECTION I

#### Name of Property

Historic Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

Other Names \_\_\_\_\_

#### Address of Property

address not for publication

Street Address 1001 Beulah Avenue

City Pueblo

County Pueblo

Zip 81004

#### Present Owner of Property

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

Name Colorado Department of Agriculture

Address 1375 Sherman Street

Phone 303-866-5000

City Denver

State Colorado

Zip 80203

#### Owner Consent for Nomination

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

#### Preparer of Nomination

Name Jill Seyfarth

Date 15 August 2006

Organization Cultural Resource Planning

Address P. O. Box 295

Phone 970-247-5893

City Durango

State Colorado

Zip 81302

#### FOR OFFICIAL USE:

8/25/06 Nomination Received

11/17/2006 Review Board Recommendation

Approval  Denial

Site Number 5PE.5983

Senate # \_\_\_\_\_

House # \_\_\_\_\_

11/30/2006 CHS Board State Register Listing

Approved  Denied

Listing Criteria  A  B  C  D  E

Certification of Listing: President, Colorado Historical Society

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

**SECTION II**

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**Local Historic Designation**

Has the property received local historic designation?

no

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

Date designated \_\_\_\_\_

Designated by \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of municipality or county)

**Use of Property**

Historic Recreation: fair

Current Recreation: fair

**Original Owner** State Fair Association

Source of Information Pueblo Chieftain, 4 April 1901

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**Year of Construction** various—between 1921 and 1964 (See descriptions of each building)

Source of Information Pueblo Chieftain annual "State Fair" editions, Colorado State Archives

Pueblo Historical Society collections, Pueblo Public Library collections; interviews with locals

**Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer** Architects: L. E. Heggenberger, Walter DeMordaunt, James K. Holst, Kenneth J. Stines, WPA Builders: Howard I. Burnham, Al Jersin, A.F. Cherry, L.R. Foy, E. L. Dunlap, WPA. (See descriptions of each building)

Source of Information Colorado State Archives; building plaques; interviews with locals

**Locational Status**

Original location of structure(s)

Structure(s) moved to current location

Date of move \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION III**

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**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 Colorado State Fairgrounds

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education                 | Architecture                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology – prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Law                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology – historic             | <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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**

Lots(s) 1-8 Block 1 Addition Smith

Lot(s) 15-16 Block 28 Addition Uplands Park

Lots(s) All Block 1-4 Addition Mapleton

Lots(s) All Block 1 of Gallup and Wilcox Subdivision

USGS Topographic Quad Map Southwest Pueblo (1992) and Northwest Pueblo (1992)

**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 Colorado State Fairgrounds

## 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**

### Use of Nomination Materials

Upon submission to the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, all nomination forms and supporting materials become public records pursuant to CRS Title 24, and may be accessed, copied, and used for personal or commercial purposes in accordance with state law unless otherwise specifically exempted. The Colorado Historical Society may reproduce, publish, display, perform, prepare derivative works or otherwise use the nomination materials for Society and/or State Register purposes.

### For Office Use Only

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

Architectural Style/Engineering Type: WPA Rustic; Novelty; Late 19<sup>th</sup> & Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements

Period of Significance: 1901 - 1965

Level of Significance:  Local  State  National

Associated Multiple Property Submission: N/A

Acreage 44.610

Site Elevation: 4790 feet

P.M. 6<sup>th</sup> Township 21S Range 65W Section 2 Quarter Sections N SW

UTM Reference: Zone \_\_\_\_\_ Easting \_\_\_\_\_ Northing \_\_\_\_\_

**(see continuation sheet- page 37)**

**Property Name** Colorado State Fairgrounds

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## **DESCRIPTION and ALTERATIONS**

The Colorado State Fairgrounds are located in the southwestern portion of the City of Pueblo, Colorado. The entire fairgrounds property is bordered by Prairie Avenue on the west, Small Avenue on the north and Beulah Avenue on the east. A very small rectangle at the southeast corner of the property (northwest corner of Beulah and Arroyo) is not part of the fairgrounds, creating a very small notch (see sketch map). Except for the small notch just described, Arroyo Avenue is the southern boundary of the eastern 2/3 of the property. The western 1/3 of the property extends to the south and is bordered by Mesa Avenue on the south and Acero Avenue on the east.

The Fairgrounds Historic District is located within the confines of the Colorado State Fairgrounds but does not include the entire Fairgrounds. The following four areas of the entire Fairgrounds are excluded from the Historic District.

Exclusion area 1- The area located within the previously described extension to the south of Arroyo Avenue and between Prairie and Acero Avenues is a large asphalted surface that is used for parking and/or the carnival. It is not included within the boundaries Historic District.

Exclusion areas 2-4- Three large, irregularly-shaped areas have been excluded from the Historic District because they are characterized by redevelopment that occurred after the ending date of the period of significance (1965). In general terms, the three excluded areas contain the Events Center with its associated parking and the west wall of the fairgrounds (which includes the Prairie Avenue entry gate), the horse grounds located within the U formed by the stone stalls and extending to the east to the split face block wall, and the Beulah entry. The following building and/or structure descriptions and discussions relate specifically to the area within the Historic District, unless otherwise noted.

### *General Layout*

The entire Colorado State Fairgrounds (including both the Historic District and the exclusions 2-4 as described above) are encompassed by a solid tall masonry wall with entry gates. In its setting within the entire Fairgrounds, the Fairgrounds Historic District has clusters of buildings and uses. The northern half of the Fairgrounds Historic District contains horse-related structures and features, and is generally defined on the south by masonry walls, the former paddock (Colorado Pavilion), and by the back of the grandstands.<sup>1</sup>

Large-scale exhibit halls and smaller barns occupy the southwest portion of the District. The southeastern corner of the District has a diverse collection of buildings. A complex of five 4-H buildings is located at the east edge of the Historic District. This complex is referred to as Camp Tobin. A modern (1985) amphitheater with a grassy berm is located to the south and west of Camp Tobin. A large expanse of asphalt extends west from the amphitheater area and is the setting for temporary buildings and trailers during the fair. Two small buildings (Lottery and the Dugout) edge the west side of the asphalt expanse and set the transition to the larger exhibit buildings that occupy the southwest section of the fairgrounds.

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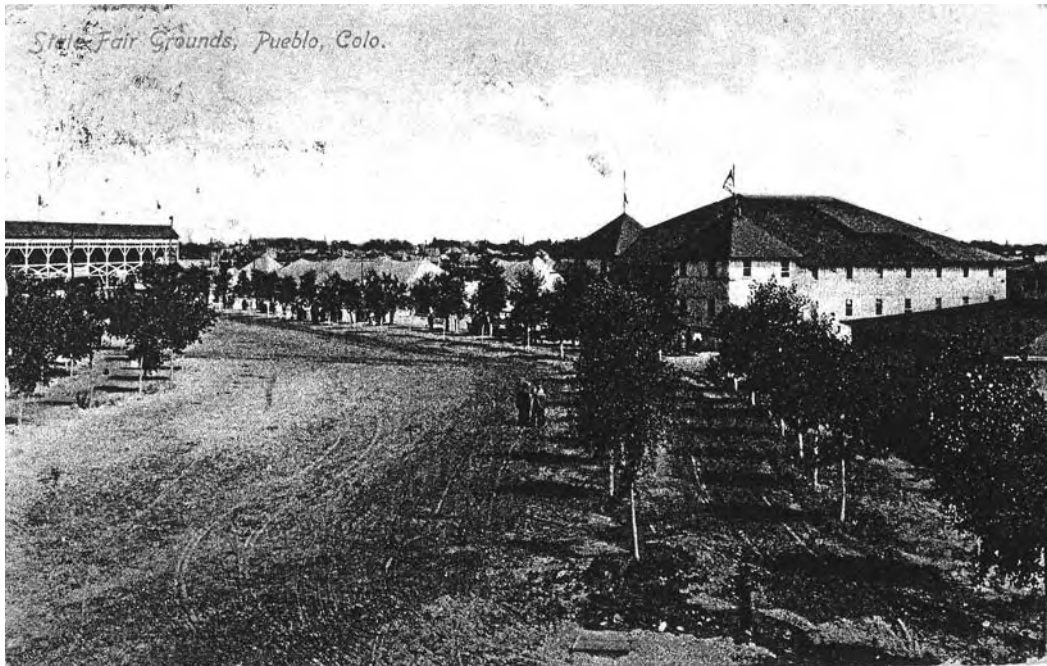
<sup>1</sup> Contemporary building names are included in this descriptive section to match the contemporary names provided on the Fairgrounds Map.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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The center of the District features a park-like setting. The sketch map provides the names and corresponding numbered locations of the buildings in this area. The park is anchored by the large Palace of Agriculture (#24) at the west and the "Triangle Park" at the east. The Administration Building (#22), the Cultural Heritage Center (#19), the Creative Arts Building (#21), two restroom buildings, a water station, a Kentucky Fried Chicken concession building, and a small band shell (#26) are located in Triangle Park.

Main Street and The Colorado Concourse are east-west oriented asphalt-surface travel ways that merge near the Beulah gate. Main Street is well defined by sidewalks and a line of trees. The edge of the Colorado Concourse is less distinct. A large expanse of asphalt known as The Square is located to the west of the travel way. The massive Livestock Pavilion and Dairy Bar anchors the west end of The Square.



*A postcard taken some time between 1901 and 1930 shows the curve of the The Colorado Concourse with the "State" building on the right and the original wood grandstands in the distance to the left. Neither the State building nor the wood grandstands are still standing. (photo courtesy of Cindy Hawthorne)*

### *Landscape Features*

The grounds are covered in asphalt in most areas. Parks or park-like settings are located in the center of the fairgrounds in the Triangle Park and in the grass seating area for the amphitheater. Camp Tobin has a lawn area located around the buildings. Rows of trees line both sides of Main Street, and shade the stall rows. Trees line the southeast corner of the fairgrounds around Camp Tobin and a segment of the wall near the southwest corner. Other trees are located throughout the District. Most of the trees are mature deciduous trees. Many are elm trees.

**Property Name** Colorado State Fairgrounds

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Numerous street lights, (at least five different styles) are used in the District. They do not suggest a predetermined pattern or installation plan. A passage between the Sheep and Swine Building and the Small Animal Building suggests a pedestrian way may have been defined here previously, but all that is there now are some square concrete tree planters with a few trees.

*Major Historical Changes to the Site*

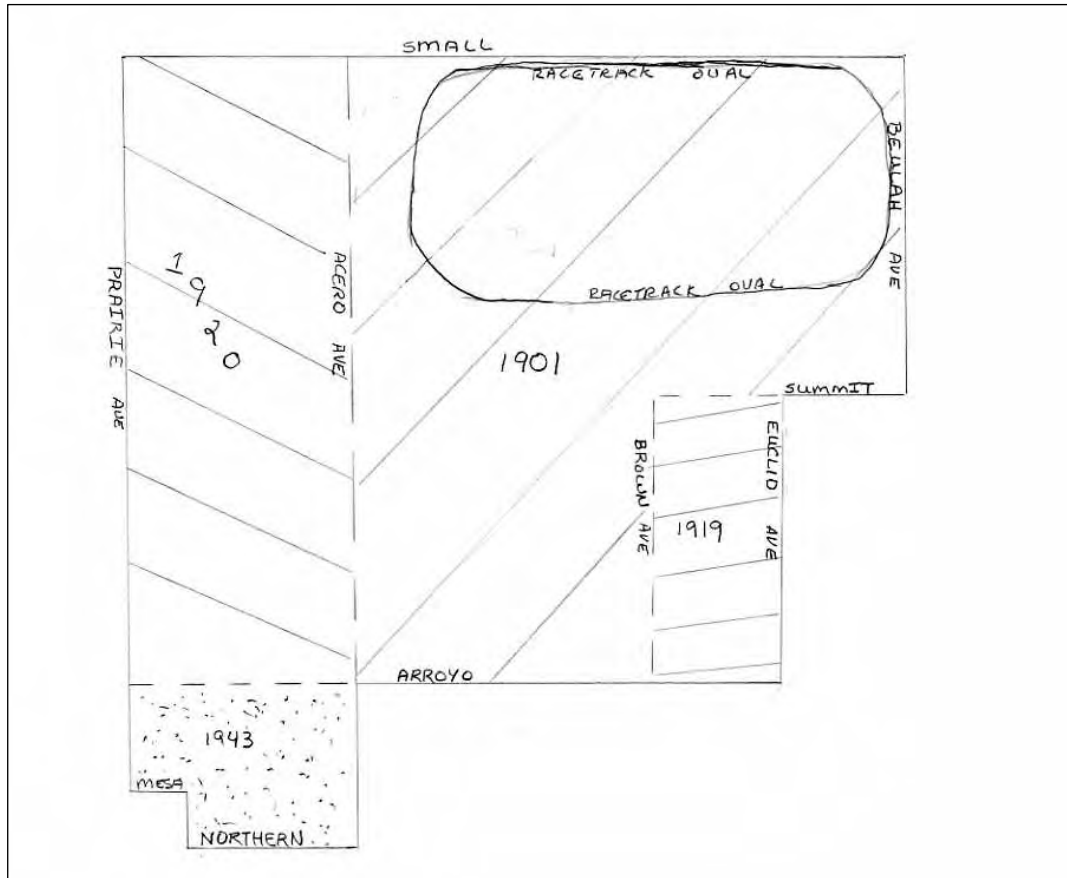
The original (1901) fairgrounds were located between Beulah and the former Acero Avenue. A 1904-5 Sanborn map shows a well developed facility with a 60 foot wide ½ mile race oval stretching between Beulah and Acero Avenues, an approximately 300 foot long grandstand and two sets of U-shaped wood horse stalls. Four buildings that appear to be halls (three are named the Newton, Floral, Pueblo buildings) and a large "State Building" are located along the present day Colorado Concourse. A dining hall and a residence, presumably that of the manager, were also on the grounds. The fairgrounds were enclosed by an 8 foot fence.

None of the original buildings have survived from 1901. It appears the last of the original buildings was the State Building, which was torn down in the early 1940s. Many of the horse related structures were replaced by similar structures over time. The original wood stalls were replaced by stone stalls. The wood grandstand was replaced by a concrete and steel grandstand. The boundary wall material changed from wood to stone or concrete.

Additional land extending to the west from Acero Avenue to Prairie Avenue was legally acquired in 1920, but may have been put to use well before then. On the east side, the National Guard Armory was located along Beulah just south of the current Beulah entry (outside the Historic District). The Guard property was acquired in 1961. The building was torn down in the 1980s and the Beulah entry was remodeled and expanded into the new property.

The greatest change to the site layout is located in the horse area and reflects the change in emphasis from horse racing to rodeos and shows. In the 1980s, the original (1901) half-mile oval race track was removed and a tall north-south oriented split face block wall was constructed to divide the rodeo arena-grandstands area from the rest of the horse facilities. The wall cuts through the former location of the racetrack oval. The land on the west side of this wall (outside the Historic District) has been planted and regraded for drainage maintenance. The property on the east side of the wall (inside the Historic District) is within the rodeo grounds. Another change is that the Prairie Avenue gate at the west side of the Fairgrounds (outside the Historic District) has been developed as a major entry point.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds



*This sketch shows the acquisition of land. It is not to scale. The oval location is approximate and is intended only for orientation. (North is to the top.)*

#### *Resources in the District*

The buildings and structures in the Historic District total 41 and include 32 buildings and 9 structures. Nine of these buildings or structures are non-contributing to the Historic District either because they were built after 1965 or because they have been thoroughly altered from their original appearance. They do not detract from the overall historic character of the district because they are small in scale, incorporate building materials compatible with the setting, and serve functions that are consistent with the operations of the fairgrounds.

The buildings in the Historic District reflect the seasonal nature and agricultural orientation of the Colorado State Fair. Many are not heated. Some buildings have no glass in the window openings, but instead have hinged wood coverings. Entrances are often oversized to accommodate livestock and display booths. Many buildings have rectangular floor plans and barrel vaulted roofs with exposed trusses and structural supports. There are six general types of buildings.

Exhibition Buildings are large in scale and have large openings to accommodate livestock. These are well ventilated buildings and usually incorporate features typically found on barns, such as monitor



Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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roofs. Even the FFA dormitory, which was converted from an exhibition building, retains a barn-like resemblance.

Exposition Buildings house the “domestic” competitions such as cooking, canning, and sewing. These buildings have tall ceilings and large open interior spaces with exposed support structures.

Administration Buildings and gathering halls are limited to a few small buildings, and to the 4-H Camp Tobin auditorium, dining hall and dormitories. Administrative functions are also located within some of the larger exhibition buildings.

Concession buildings and non-agriculturally oriented performance venues are generally small in scale and are open air structures.

The horse facilities, particularly, the horse stables and the paddock, are not massive in scale but clearly define the edges of the horse-related areas of the fairgrounds. An exception, the grandstands, is large in scale and seat spectators for rodeos. The grandstands also provided seating for concerts and other performances.

Ancillary buildings, such as restrooms and storage sheds, are constructed in a variety of sizes and materials, reflecting the growing crowds at the fair. They are small in size and scale.

Brick and stone building materials are the most common. The brick buildings that were built in the 1920s are now coated in stucco reflecting the movement in 1944 to create a whitewash effect on all of the brick buildings. One brick building on the fairgrounds was constructed in the 1950s after the stucco project and still has exposed brick. The stone buildings and horse stalls incorporate large irregularly shaped limestone slabs that were quarried approximately three miles from the fairgrounds between the Beulah Highway and Red Creek Springs Road. These buildings were all partly funded by the New Deal Works Progress Administration (WPA) or Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA) programs, or a combination of the two.

Concrete masonry units (CMUs) are used on various buildings, including the small barns from the 1940s, the rodeo stands and the Livestock Pavilion and Dairy Bar (Building #7; 1964). Exposed steel frames present a modern effect on the Livestock Pavilion and a more traditional look on the grandstands.

Construction that occurred after the ending date of the period of significance (1965) often incorporates split face block making it easy to distinguish new block construction from older construction. A number of the smaller concession buildings have been coated with stucco.

### *Descriptions*

The following descriptions address the buildings and structures in the Historic District. The number refers to the building's location on the sketch maps. Photograph numbers refer to views described in the photograph log. The few noncontributing buildings in the Historic District are small in scale and do not detract from the overall character of the district. These non-contributing buildings are listed at the end of the descriptions. The buildings are numbered to correspond with the sketch map.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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**1. Main Grandstands**, 1930 with 1937 for wall and ticket booth (Photographs 7-11 for Grandstands and 12-14 for wall and ticket booth)

A steel frame structure with concrete floors and a metal roof, the grandstands face north toward the rodeo grounds and hold about 2000 people. The structure has a steeply sloped concrete floor protected by a pitched metal shed roof. An enclosed ground level is located beneath the seats. The south ground level wall has a series of slightly recessed bays along the south wall with metal overhead garage doors located in some of the bays. The ground level walls are concrete masonry units coated with stucco. The grandstand seating area is accessed via concrete steps with wood bead board stair wells. Wood bench seats with backs are in the upper levels. Individual plastic "box" seats are in the lower level. The Fairground Manager's designated seat is located in the "box" seat area and has a rotary dial telephone in a box located next to it.

A photograph from 1948 indicates that pairs of windows were located in most of the bays of the south ground level wall. Most of the bays currently have either garage door openings or no openings. This change appears to be the most significant alteration to the original structure.

A stone wall extending to the west from the west edge of the grandstand has an arched entryway flanked on either side by a series of ticket windows. The eastern ticket windows are located under a filled-in arched entry. Concrete masonry units fill the bottom of the arch, below the ticket windows. A curved concrete crown delineates the top of the former arched opening. The windows are four small rectangular openings in the wall. A small rectangular, flat roofed concrete masonry unit booth is located on the north side of the wall, behind the openings. The combination of the infilled wall and the concrete masonry unit booth suggests this ticket window was installed considerably after the construction of the wall. The entryway is arched and defined by a curved concrete crown matching the arch treatment used on all of the WPA constructed horse compound buildings and on the former manager's residence. The arch has an iron side hinged double door gate.

West of the entry are two small arched ticket windows with a shared concrete sill. A small rectangular, flat roofed ticket booth extends north from the north side of the wall behind the two windows in the wall. The front, or south facing, side of the wall is stuccoed. The rear of the wall and the western ticket booth walls all are exposed random rubble masonry of locally quarried limestone. The walls were part of the 1936-1937 WPA funded construction work. The wall and ticket booth walls have a concrete cap. The wall abuts a tall north-south split face block wall located at the west end of the rodeo area.

**2A. and 2B. West and East Rodeo Stands**, 1946 (Photographs 7, 14, 15, 16)

Two small stands flank a judge's stand/stage in the rodeo arena. The stands face south and are constructed of concrete masonry unit with wood bench seats and a wood floor. The stands have a steel structure supporting a metal roof. The block is coated with a thin layer of stucco. Entry doors to a lower enclosed area are located on the rear (north) walls of the stands.

**3. Paddock** [Colorado Pavilion on the current map], 1937 (Photographs 17-20)

Originally built as a paddock this building was part of the 1936-1937 WPA funded construction work. The walls are locally quarried limestone random rubble masonry. The building is a one-story, east-west oriented rectangle with a barrel vaulted roof with roll roofing. Stepped parapets with concrete caps define the east and west ends. The side (north and south) walls have no roof overhang. An arcade encompasses the building.

While the stonework is made up of irregularly shaped stone, the columns supporting the arches are made of squared rock. The arched openings are unglazed but have had fencing material applied to discourage birds from coming in through the windows. The windows have concrete sills and are connected by a concrete string course that runs along the tops of the windows and matches the configuration at the grandstands gates and the horse stalls. The south wall windows have decorative

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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iron grilles. Entries are centered on each side of the building. The doorway arches match the detailing of the windows. The west and north entries are wide, single arched openings with voussoirs and a keystone, while the east and south entries have a pair of arched entries located under a curved parapet. The north and east entries have arched iron grill side hinged gates. The south entry has a pair of scalloped- strap-hinged vertical wood plank doors. The front, or south, side is stuccoed over, but the remainder of the building is not. The cap, string course and sills at the windows are highlighted by contrasting paint color on the stuccoed side. Clay pipes constructed by WPA work crews for sewer and drainage systems are used for roof drains on the north and south walls. One opening has been closed in on the east wall but could easily be re-opened.

The interior (photo 20) is a single expanse with a poured concrete floor and wood posts supporting bowstring trusses. The building became the Poultry Building in 1956, and then was used as a restaurant banquet facility. It was renamed the Agricultural Pavilion in 2005, but is called the Colorado Pavilion on the maps.

**4. Restroom, post 1959 (Photograph 18)**

A flat roofed rectangular restroom building abuts part of the east wall of the Colorado Pavilion building and is set back from the south wall of the paddock. The walls of the restroom are of the same masonry as the paddock with additional courses of block that have been added to the tops of all of the walls to make the building taller. The block portions of the wall are covered with stucco. The entire south wall is stuccoed, consistent with the treatment of the adjacent Colorado Pavilion. It appears from the interior of the paddock that this building was directly accessed from inside the paddock.

**5. Vineland Methodist Food Booth, early 1960s (Photograph 67)**

Noted as "Booth" on the map, this small gable roof concession booth is located to the west of the Colorado Pavilion (paddock) building and extends south from the Colorado Pavilion building toward the street. It has long horizontally oriented windows and is stuccoed on all sides. Patrons are served from the windows. The roof is asphalt shingle. The building is small in scale in contrast to the adjacent Colorado Pavilion. As a food booth that is typical of state fair concessions, it contributes to the overall character of the fairgrounds with minimal architectural impact.

**6. Stall Rows, 1936-1937 (Photographs 21-27)**

The stall rows are made up of two L-shaped sections that together form a **U** with all stalls facing inward. The horse stalls were part of the 1936-1937 WPA funded construction work. The project was completed at a cost of \$30,000 per 50-stall unit. The WPA's portion was \$25,000 per unit while the State Fair Commission contributed \$5,000 per unit. The first 100 stalls were built in 1936. A portion of these stalls also served as the exterior wall of the fairgrounds along Small Avenue. The remaining stalls were completed in 1937. The walls are random rubble masonry of locally quarried limestone and are finished with concrete caps. Some of the walls were coated with stucco at a later date. Design features are consistent with the adjacent Colorado Pavilion (paddock), incorporating an arcade with a concrete string course connecting the arches. While the stonework on the walls is made up of irregularly shaped stone, the columns supporting the arches are made of squared rock. The arches do not sit squarely on the columns, but are forward of the center of each column. The stall rows have a flat roof that "steps up" to fit the topography. A curved parapet rises above an arch at intervals along each row, and at the ends and corners. The actual stalls are located behind the arcade and each has a wood dutch door flanked by rectangular wood frame window openings with no glazing. All windows and doors have concrete sills and lintels.

An asphalt roadway measuring about 20 feet wide runs in front of the stalls. Trees line the roadway of the southern and northern stall rows. Most of the trees are mature elm trees, but a few honey locust trees have recently been planted presumably in place of older trees.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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The interior walls of the U have exposed random rubble limestone masonry, and the exterior sides are stuccoed over. Window openings (one per stall) have horizontal re-bar grilles. Adobe colored stucco coats the exterior side of the north and south stall rows. The southwest exterior corner has been rounded by applying coats of stucco (photo 26). The west exterior side of the stall row has a thin coat of grey stucco. The stucco applications were not part of the original construction of the walls. It is not clear in the historical record when the stucco was applied.

There are two entry gates into the stall rows. The west gate has a wall with exposed limestone random rubble masonry, located at a 90 degree angle to the main wall, to guide traffic into the area. The south gate has a raised rectilinear parapet over the opening and a painted sign noting "Horse Show Enter Here". A third gate, that provides access onto the fairgrounds from the street, is located at the east end of the north wall of the stalls. This "exterior" gate is described later as Rodeo Gate #7. The eastern end-wall of the stalls extends north from the entry gate and is stuccoed over.

**7. Livestock Pavilion and Dairy Bar, 1964 (Photographs 92-94)**

A large enclosed two-story steel frame rectangular building is flanked on the north and south by smaller, roofed, open steel frame stalls. The pavilion has a shallow pitched gable roof. Walls are concrete masonry unit. The interior has a dirt floor and exposed metal trusses. The building faces east and has a flat roofed covered walkway supported by metal posts along the east side. The east side has two sets of metal double doors that share a clerestory panel of windows, and two single doors with tall narrow fixed windows located above the doorways. A panel made up of six tall narrow fixed windows is located above the double doors clerestory panel. The west side has a metal garage doors and one small second story windows. The steel frame stalls have a roof designed in a folded plate structure in an accordion configuration. Each rigid upside down steel V acts as a giant beam. Low monitor roofs run along the roof ridges. Roofing material is metal. The roof is supported by steel V shaped columns that are based on poured concrete piers. Four bays of the northern stalls are enclosed by concrete masonry unit walls to accommodate the Dairy Bar. The Dairy Bar has two sets of double steel frame glass doors 2 single steel frame glass doors and two fixed windows (Photo #92). The building was designed to exhibit cattle and to illustrate the process from cow to dairy product. Both the Pavilion and the Dairy Bar are identified by large scale lettered names that have been painted on the buildings.

A plaque on the east wall includes information that Al Jersin Construction Company was the builder and James K. Holst as the architect. When contacted for this research project, Mr. Holst stated that he remembered designing the structural spacing using the length of a full grown bull as his unit of measure for the columns. Additionally, he remembered the Dairy Bar as the only "cow to ice-cream" facility he's ever seen – a "real challenge to meet health code requirements."

**8. Feed Barn, ca 1941 (Photographs 90-91)**

The feed barn is a simple gable roofed rectangular building with stucco walls and an asphalt shingle roof. The north and south walls each have a single small window, moderate roof overhang and exposed rafter tails. The east and west walls are the gable ends. They each have exposed beams at the rake end, a pair of large wood doors and a square vent centered under the gable peak. The west facing doors are approximately 12 feet tall and slide open on a track. The doors are vertical plank wood with an X configuration on the lower half. The east facing doors are side hinged dutch doors and are about 14 feet tall. The interior has a dirt floor and exposed wood framing.

**9. Swine and Sheep Building, 1934-1936 (Photographs 82-85)**

Initial funding for the construction of this building came from the New Deal Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) in 1934. Delays related to the absorption of FERA into the WPA program stretched out the construction of this building which was completed in 1936. The estimated cost for the building was \$30,675. The building is a one story rectangle with a barrel vaulted roof with roll roofing.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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The sidewalls (north and south walls) and the stepped parapet end walls are finished with concrete caps. The walls are random rubble masonry of locally quarried limestone. Windows on all sides of the building are the same square shape with concrete sills and no glazing. In most cases the windows have simple wood, top-hinged coverings. The garage door openings are similar on all sides of the building. They have segmental arches above each opening.

The east (photo #82) and west (photo #84) sides have an almost identical configuration with two metal overhead garage doors flanked by two windows on the outer side of the doors and one window between the two doors. A louvered square vent is centered on the wall and is located above the height of the windows and doors. The east wall has an additional rectangular opening of unknown function located near the northeast corner. Two windows and the rectangular opening have been filled in with stucco.

The north and south walls are very long expanses broken by pairs of windows located between tapered stone pilasters and an overhead garage door located at the center of the wall. A poured concrete loading platform is located at the north garage door (photo #83). The stone used on the pilasters are shaped into roughly square pieces. An inscribed stone is located below the eastern-most window on the north wall. The stone notes a 1935 construction date, and credits Robert L. Root as the Superintendent of Construction and JJ Clark as the Project Manager.

**10. 4-H Barn** [Children's Barnyard on the current map], 1947 (Photographs 86-87)

Originally built as a 4-H barn, this is a long rectangular building with a monitor-like roof. The roof is roll roofing and appears to be supported by square pilasters placed at regular intervals. A solid wall of about five feet in height spans the pilasters, leaving a rectangular open space above the walls and between each pilaster. These open spaces are presently screened with grating. Two large metal side hinge livestock gates and a smaller metal gate/pedestrian door are located on the south wall. A single wood door is located on the north wall. The east and west walls are the gable ends. Each end has a large rectangular metal livestock gate centered under the gable and a gable ventilator with wood bargeboards. The open configuration and the openings in the monitor roof improve the airflow in this shelter for exhibit animals. Primary building materials are cinderblocks coated with stucco. The building has a poured concrete floor, and exposed supports. (Note-Native Puebloan George Williams remembers that Pueblo contractor Pete Del Papa was involved in the construction of this building.)

**11. 4-H Barn** [FFA Dormitory on current map], 1948 (Photographs 88-89)

Built a year after the Children's Barnyard, this building was originally used as a 4-H barn. This building incorporates the same building shape and monitor roof as the Children's Barnyard, but the open-air spaces located above the half walls have been filled in with windows and louvers. Large openings that have metal gates at the Children's Barnyard are filled in with solid walls on this building. The window openings on the monitor are covered with roofing material. If there was a gable ventilator on this building, it has been removed. Native Puebloan George Williams remembers that Pueblo contractor Pete Del Papa was involved in the construction of this building. The building was converted into a dormitory for FFA members in 1964 by contractor Glen Owens.

**12. Livestock Pavilion** [Small Animal Building on current map], 1921 (Photographs 74-79)

The Small Animal building (originally the Livestock Pavilion) was one of the first two permanent buildings to be constructed under the auspices of the State Fair Commission using the state mil levy money. It was constructed by local Pueblo contractor A.F. Cherry. The building is massive (276 x 296 feet), and originally held cattle and horse show areas, with 124 horse stalls. Although now covered in stucco, a sense of the original brick building material is visible from the outside at the exposed brick (rowlock) window sills and inside where much of the brick walls remains uncovered (photographs 78-79). The interior bricks are soft and are laid with alternating headers and stretchers in a Flemish Bond

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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in a colorful assortment of red, dark reddish brown and tan (photo #78).

This giant building has an irregularly shaped building plan with the north side of the building aligned along the street. The hipped roof is topped by a monitor roof with large windows. Roof material is roll roofing. Most of the building is one story, except for a small two story projection from the cross bar of the T. The T is also somewhat modified by small projections extending from the cross bar and the addition of a covered walkway along the west wall. The covered walkway has a hipped roof with clay tiles. The roof is supported by metal poles.

Windows are paired and spaced regularly along all sides of the building, except for the north side that faces the street. Pairs of modern metal frame replacement windows with a wide vertical mullion have been installed within many of the original opening. The two-story hipped roof projection has one over one metal frame windows. On the north facade, shaded parking is provided by an extension of the roof at the east end. A garage door and two pedestrian doors are located on this side of the building. Overhead metal garage doors are also located on the east and south sides. The building was first coated in stucco in 1944, in an effort to stucco all of the brick buildings on the fairgrounds to create a "White Way". A remodel in 1948 changed the use of the building from cattle and horse exhibitions to a cattle-only facility that could hold 900 head of cattle. The building is identified by painted lettering over the garage door on the north side. The interior has a dirt floors and poured concrete floors, with exposed trusses and wood posts.

**13. Poultry and Pet Stock Pavilion** [Gallery of Fine Arts on current map], 1921(Photographs 70-73)

The Gallery of Fine Arts building, which was originally known and operated as the Poultry and Pet Stock Pavilion, was one of the first two permanent buildings to be constructed under the auspices of the State Fair Commission using the state mil levy money.

Like the Small Animal Building, this one story rectangular building was built of brick and is now coated with stucco. It has a hipped monitor roof and has rolled asphalt roofing. Pilasters mark each corner of the building. The front, or north, side has a centered recessed main entry protected by a shallow gable roof projection that is supported by square posts. Four beams project from the gable roof end. Double doors with multi lite wood sash transoms and sidelites define the entry. The doors are made of vertical wood planks. A multiple lite window is located next to the entry. A second door has replaced what was originally a window, and is located to the west of the main entry. That door is a five panel wood door. The east side of the north wall originally had four windows. This side was extended north and remodeled to install restrooms with exterior access.

The original window configuration consisted of pairs of what appear to be casement windows on all sides of the building. Currently, a number of the window openings have been covered with sheets of painted plywood, but the size and shape of the openings have not been altered. The window size, shape and pairings are clearly evident. The windows on the west side are all closed in except for one pair. Half of the windows on the east and south sides are also closed in. A garage door is located on the south side. The monitor windows are intact and consist of pairs of one over one lite windows. There are three pairs on the north and south sides and four pairs on the east and west sides.

The September 25, 1921 *Pueblo Chieftain* notes that the building was red brick with cream brick trim. The 1921 *Chieftain* also reported that the building had a restaurant, restrooms, offices and show areas. The building was first coated in stucco in 1944, in an effort to stucco all of the brick buildings on the fairgrounds to create a "White Way". The stucco coating has covered any brick features on the building.

It is not known when the restroom and door installation occurred on the north wall. The 1952 Sanborn Fire Insurance map does not show the "bump out" that resulted from the restroom addition, so the restroom remodel is likely to have occurred after 1952. The building and the locations of the restroom are identified by painted lettering on the north side.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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- 14. Rabbit Building** [Natural Resources Building on current map], 1946 (Photographs 80-81)  
Constructed to display rabbits, fair programs promoted this building as the “Largest Rabbit Show Building in the World”. This one story steel frame building is coated in stucco. It is a rectangle shape with a gable roof, shallow roof overhangs and simple, stepped parapets at the north and south gable end walls. Roof material is rolled asphalt. Both parapets have concrete coping with a corrugated finish, repeating the corrugated treatment of the low wall (painted green as of June, 2006) that extends across the front (north) side of the building. The corrugated concrete details mimic a similar design feature on the nearby Palace of Architecture. The centered front entry is slightly recessed and contains a contemporary commercial storefront unit with metal framed glass double doors under a fixed clerestory. Glass block sidelites are on both sides of the door. A square vent is located above the door. A plaque located on the front wall states includes the information that E.M. Dunlap was the builder.  
The approach to the front door is marked by a peeled log truss and a block planter that spans the width of the front side of the building. A concrete handicap ramp has been installed at the entry.  
The west wall (photo #81) has a garage door opening with vertical plastic strips (as is used in front of walk-in coolers in liquor stores and restaurant kitchens) and a series of windows that have been filled in. The rear, or south, side has the same corrugated parapet as the front, a series of stuccoed over windows and two doors. The east wall also has stuccoed over window openings. All of the covered windows on the rear and sides have projecting sills, but the sill material (brick) is obscured by the layers of stucco. Inside the building are a dropped ceiling with acoustic tiles and a brick floor. The building originally had a sunken pit but the pit is no longer evident.

**15-18 Camp Tobin Buildings**

This is the cluster of 4-H buildings located at the southeast part of the district. The 4-H complex of buildings was named for Senator John J. Tobin (Montrose) who was instrumental in obtaining \$25,000 from the State Legislature to build the first two permanent 4-H buildings in 1923. Prior to 1923, 4-H club members camped in tents at the same location on the fairgrounds. The camp consists of five buildings and a lawn area.

**15A. and 15B. 4-H Girls and Boys Dormitories, 1923 and 1980s** (Photographs 38-40)

The oldest buildings in the complex are the front parts of the two dormitories. The dormitories were identical one story buildings constructed in 1923 of brick. In 1944 the buildings were covered in stucco as part of a movement to stucco all of the brick buildings on the fairgrounds to create a “White Way”. In the 1980s, most of the two brick buildings were replaced with the current wood frame buildings. Pueblo native George Williams believes that Harold Mabie, who owned the King Lumber Company, garnered members of the building trades and building supply companies to replace the back section of the dormitories. Only the fronts of the two buildings were retained because they contained the plumbing for the buildings.

The 1923 parts of the buildings have shallow-pitched gable roofs with roll roofing. The sides have deep eave overhangs. The gable ends on the north side of the buildings each have an angled parapet that rises to a rectangle. The entire sections of the buildings from 1923 have been coated in stucco, except for the brick (rowlock) window sills and a brick detail over the door. The Boy’s Dormitory has one functioning window on the south wall. The side (east and west) walls have pilasters, dividing the walls into two bays. The new addition to each building is clearly delineated by a concrete masonry unit parapet wall that rises above the roof line and separates old from new. The new construction is a long rectangle with a gable roof with asphalt roofing, vertical wood siding and horizontal metal framed windows located along the side (east and west) walls. The rear (south) side has steel double doors.

- 16. 4-H Dining Hall, 1934** (Photographs 31-33)

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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Constructed using Federal Emergency Relief Administration funds, the wood frame Dining Hall was built to seat 500 boys and girls. It is a one story, long rectangle, front gable building with gable ends at the north and south sides. The roof material is asphalt shingle. The building is finished in stucco with a trowel pattern. The north, or front, side has a porch with brick columns and low walls with concrete caps. The porch floor is poured concrete. The bricks on the porch walls are arranged in a decorative alternating brick pattern. Two pairs of large one over one metal sash windows flank the entry. The entry has modern metal double doors with glazing in the top half. A plaque on the front identifies the construction date and the names of the Fair Commissioners.

The same style of window is spaced along the east and west walls, except at the southernmost end of the east wall where the window opening has been filled in and stuccoed over. What appear to be original vertical plank doors are located on the east and south walls. A pair of metal doors are located on the east and west walls. The south wall has a ribbon window with eight small one over one lite windows. A square brick chimney extends from the east side of the roof north the south end of the building. Inside the building is a poured concrete floor and a dropped ceiling with acoustic tiles.

This building is connected to the adjacent Auditorium (#17, below) via a gable roofed addition that abuts the west wall at the south end of the building. The addition has smooth stucco walls and rolled asphalt roof material.

**17. 4-H Auditorium, 1938** (Photographs 34-37)

This building was built using \$3,396 from the Pueblo City Council and \$22,441 from the WPA. The Auditorium is a steel frame one story gabled building with a front projecting porch and is constructed in the Craftsman Style. The building was part of the Works Progress Administration-funded construction work and incorporated walls of locally quarried limestone random rubble masonry, finished with concrete caps on the porch columns and the low porch walls. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Beams are exposed on the gable ends. The porch is under a front gable roof projection that is not quite the full width of the front (north side) of the building. Battered porch columns rise from the ground to the roof without a break. A window flanks each side of the double doors entry. The doors are relatively recent replacement metal doors with glass in the top half and are the same vintage and style as the adjacent Dining Room Hall. Plaques located on the two outermost columns include the 1938 construction date and the names of the Fair Commissioners. The plaques also note that Robert Harvey and E.M. Dunlap were the Supervisors of Construction.

All of the window openings in the building have concrete sills and lintels. The same style and size of window are used on the front and sides of the building. They are grouped in pairs of metal frame one over one windows. The east and west sides of the building are divided into a series of bays by tapered pilasters (photos 35 and 36). One window is located in each bay. A pair of metal double doors is located on each side of the building. The southern most window on the west wall has been boarded up from the inside, leaving the original opening intact. One bay on the west wall appears to have never had a window opening. The rear of the building has a centered vertical wood board double door, four small windows, a vent located over the door and three basement windows (photo #37). The addition has smooth stucco walls and rolled asphalt roof material. The inside of the building has a hardwood floor and a dropped ceiling with acoustic tile.

This building is connected to the adjacent Dining Hall via a gable roofed addition that abuts the east wall at the south end of the building.

**18. Stafford C. Painter 4-H Exhibit Building** [4-H Exposition Building on current map], 1956  
(Photographs 28-30)

This is a concrete masonry unit rectangular building with a barrel vaulted roof with roll roofing, the building has a one story flat roofed rectangular projection off the front (north) side that is finished in red brick. The projecting roof extends well beyond the brick walls, creating a broad overhang. The flat



Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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roofed projection has wide horizontal window openings that have been covered by boards, leaving the original opening intact. The windows flank a recessed entry area that has wood double doors. The doors each have three octagonal windows. A low brick planter capped with concrete extends in front of the windows and wraps around the corners in toward the recessed entry. One metal frame two lite window is located on each of the east and west walls of the brick projection. The only other window opening on the building is located at the south end of the west wall. Solid metal doors are located on each of the sides and rear. The rear portion of the building, behind the brick projection, consists of concrete masonry unit walls. The east and west walls have shallow pilasters.

Two plaques on the building indicate this is the Stafford C. Painter 4-H Exhibit Building and the 1956 construction date. The plaque also notes Kenneth J. Stines was the architect and W. H. Kittle was the fairgrounds manager. Local contractor L.R. Foy built the building. The interior has exposed trusses and a concrete floor.

**19. Cultural Heritage Center, ca 1915 (Photographs 41-43)**

The Colorado State Archives places a construction date of 1918 on this building, but this could not be confirmed. The building was constructed after the 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map and is visible on photographs from 1935. A building program completed in 1908 may have included this building. This eight-sided one-story building with a tent shaped roof has a small multi-faceted cupola and flagpole at the peak of the roof. Roof material is asphalt shingle. A glazed arcade has been added to the three eastern-most faces of the octagon. The south facing side has a small mural. A curvilinear parapet wall extends above the entry in the arcade. The stucco application and the metal framed windows appear to date the arcade addition to the 1980s or 1990s. The interior of the original octagon has a circle scored into the floor. A small circle measuring about 8 inches in diameter is centered within the scored circle. The functions of these circles are unknown. The building appears to be open in early, undated, photographs. It hosted many uses including hay storage (undated historic photograph), a police station (1940s), ice storage (1952) chamber of commerce (1960s) and a Mexican food pavilion (recent memory from current workers at fair).

**20. Restroom, ca 1957 (Photograph 64)**

This restroom appears on Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from the late 1950s. It is a rectangular one story building with an asphalt shingle front gable roof. It is concrete masonry unit covered with stucco and has block glass windows on the east (gable) end. The men's side is accessed on the east side and the women's access is on the north side. Doors are single metal doors.

**21. Exposition Building [Creative Arts Building on current map], 1928 (Photographs 44-48)**

Originally known as the Exposition Building, this building was partially funded by the Pueblo Manufacturers and Jobbers Association to showcase manufacturers and merchants from Pueblo, Denver and the Arkansas Valley. It has since hosted a number of uses. It was the headquarters of CCC camp # 801-SP-6-C during the 1930s. It was called the "Little Theater" in the late 1940s and early 1950s and hosted performers like Sally Rand and Jack Benny. In 1954 the building was remodeled to exhibit flowers, needlework and domestic arts.

The building is a north-south oriented rectangle with a barrel-vaulted central section flanked by flat roofed wings on the east and west sides (photo #44). The roof has roll roofing material. This brick building is coated with stucco, leaving selected brick details exposed. In 1944, the building was covered in stucco as part of a movement to stucco all of the brick buildings on the fairgrounds. The front faces south. On the front, the vaulted roof section has a curved pediment reflecting the arch of the vaulted roof. The pediment curves down to a single step, drops to the juncture with the flat roof wings, and extends across the flat roofed wings. Brick caps the pediment. Three brick blind arches with keystones are spaced across the front of the vaulted section. A raised diamond is located within the arch under

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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the keystone. The outer two arches serve as door surrounds for metal framed glazed double doors. The central arch was probably a window opening, but it is now closed in with wood. A plaque located below the former window includes a reference to the Pueblo Manufacturers and Jobbers Association and E.F. Stone the Association's president, and credits the architect Walter DeMourant as well as the State Fair Commissioners. Two iron light sconces are located on either side of the central arch. The fixtures are probably historical, but the panels in the fixtures are fiberglass replacements.

The flat roofed wings on either side of the vaulted section each had four tall windows that are now covered with stucco. Decorative brickwork panels with alternating patterns are located beneath each window.

The east (photo #45) and west (photo #46) sides are identical. They have a low flat parapet capped with brick with curvilinear parapet walls located near the north and south ends over what originally were doorways. A series of windows were located on each side, but have been stuccoed over except for the brick (rowlock) sills. The doorways have been stuccoed over on the west wall. The southern entry on the east wall has vertically grooved siding. The northern entry on the east wall has a vertical wood plank double door with scalloped strap hinges. The hinges are painted over but appear to be iron. The rear or north side (photo #47) has a series of windows that match the configuration of the rest of the windows and have been stuccoed over except for the brick (rowlock) sills. Two doorways are located on the rear and have wood doors.

The interior (photo# 48) has exposed bowstring metal trusses and a concrete floor.

**22. Administration Building, 1937 (Photographs 49-51)**

Recently renamed the VIP Clubhouse, the Administration Building was constructed to contain the rodeo headquarters, the state fair commission offices and rest rooms. It was converted into the State Fair Manager's residence in the 1940s and 1950s, was used for administrative purposes and is now a meeting facility. The building was built as part of the 1935-1937 Works Progress Administration projects and uses the same arcade with concrete stringers and locally quarried limestone random rubble masonry, capped with concrete as is seen on the nearby Paddock and horse stalls. While the stonework consists of irregularly shaped stone, the columns supporting the arches are made of squared rock.

This building is a north-south oriented rectangle with a barrel vaulted roof in the center. An arcade flanks the north, east and west sides. The south side has one arch that has continued around the corner from the west wall, and steps back to a stepped parapet wall. Tall windows and door openings are located on the south wall. All of these openings have concrete sills and lintels. Windows have metal sashes and the doors are hollow core wood. A square window is also located on the east wall, just south of the arcade.

A brick chimney at the southeast corner of the vaulted roof has been stuccoed over. Clay pipes, constructed by WPA crews for numerous projects in Pueblo, serve as roof drain pipes on the north east and west walls.

Historic photographs indicate the arcade was originally open. It is now glazed on the north and east sides. The interior has been extensively remodeled and has modern finishes. Wood bow trusses are exposed on the interior.

**23. Water Station Building, ca 1950 (Photographs 60-61)**

This building appears on a 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. It may have been built in 1948 or 1949 as the adjacent Agricultural Palace was completed. It is a very small, square, concession booth with a pyramidal wood shingle roof. A door is located on the north wall and large windows with concrete sills are located on the other three sides to serve patrons. The walls are stuccoed. A water well is still located under a steel panel on the interior floor. This was one of three wells that have served the Fair since its inception.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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**24. Palace of Agriculture, 1940-1949** (Photographs 52-57)

Begun in 1940, the building took the entire decade to build due to labor and material shortages from World War II. The building has a barrel vaulted central sunken court with outer flat-roofed wings on each side. The wings were constructed first and the barrel vaulted roof was installed last. Each wing was constructed using exterior grade materials on what would eventually become the interior, court-facing walls so they could be occupied before the vaulted roof was installed. When the roof was finally completed, the walls facing the court were removed. Inside the building, the sunken court accentuates the soaring vaulted ceiling (photo #57). The court is used for tennis and basketball in the winter, as well as for meetings and exhibits (photo #58). The building is a two story rectangular building oriented east-west. The front faces east. It has a flat roof on the wings that surround the barrel vaulted roof in the center. The building incorporates the locally quarried limestone random rubble masonry used on other WPA projects at the fairgrounds in the late 1930s. It has a low wall of corrugated concrete that wraps around the entire building. The corrugated concrete is consistently applied around the base of the building, even along the walls of concrete stairs that access the side doors. A similar, narrower corrugated concrete cornice caps the walls. The concrete has a metal flashing coping is applied over the top portion of the corrugated concrete cornice.

On the front, or east side, the central section is flanked by wings with rounded corners. Two projecting bays extend from the central section, with each bay containing two separated entries protected by shed-roofed awnings with rounded corners. Concrete steps have replaced the original brick steps that accessed the entries. Doors are metal. Neon embellishment was added above the doors in the 1950s. Tall, narrow arched windows with starburst patterned grills extend above the awnings and the door, creating a very tall and narrow effect. Slightly recessed, narrow hopper windows with concrete sills are arranged in a single row on each of the wings and in three rows on the central section. Recessed panels extend below each of the windows, creating a vertical ribbon effect of windows and panels.

A raised basement level originally had windows on the front and the north sides, but these openings have been filled with concrete masonry unit. A plaque on the east wall includes the 1940 start date, the architect- L.E. Heggenberger (district WPA engineer), and E.M. Dunlap as the builder. (Note-Native Puebloan George Williams remembers that Pueblo contractor Pete Del Papa was also involved in the final phases of construction of this building.)

On the rear, or west, side the central section is flanked by wings with rounded corners. Two projecting bays extend from the central section, with each bay containing two separated entries protected by shed-roofed awnings with rounded corners. Two of the four entry doors are closed in. Tall, narrow arched windows with starburst patterned grills extend above the awnings and the door, creating a very tall and narrow effect. Two slightly recessed, narrow hopper windows with concrete sills are located on each of the wings. A row of windows is located in the central section. There is an overhead metal garage door in each wing. There are thick concrete lintels above the garage doors.

The north and south sides of the building have similar configurations with three projecting bays dividing each wall. On the north and south sides, the central bay has four separate entries and the flanking bays each have two separate entries. Concrete stairs finished with brick treads are located at all of the side entrances except for the two set of doors on the north side that have no steps and are not accessible. On the north and south walls, six windows are located to the east of the eastern most projecting bay and four windows are located to the west of the western most projecting bays. While the north and south sides are similar, there are a few differences. On the north side, a square chimney topped with corrugated concrete is located near the northeast corner and the doors are vertical wood plank. A concrete handicap ramp has been added to one set of stairs on the south side.

**25. State Fair Café, 1951** (Photographs 58-59)

Now known as the Cinfully Delicious Café, the building was constructed at a cost of \$4,167.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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This wood frame restaurant is a one story rectangular building with a gable roof. Roof material is asphalt shingle. The front entry is on the south side of the building. The south side has five metal sash windows. A corrugated fiberglass awning and a vinyl lattice low fence define an outdoor eating area. Windows are also located on the east and north sides. The building is finished with stucco.

**26. Band Shell, 1954** (Photographs 62-63)

The band shell is constructed of concrete and shelters a low platform. It faces northwest toward the interior of the park area. A square, concrete masonry unit equipment room is located at the back of the shell. It is painted in Pepsi Cola colors.

**Walls** (Photographs 97-105)

At least three treatments have been used for the fairgrounds walls. They are:

Random rubble masonry of locally quarried limestone, 1936-1937 (Photographs 97-98).

These walls range from nine to 11 feet tall and in most areas have concrete caps. They were constructed by Works Progress Administration Crews as part of the construction program at the Fairgrounds. The walls are located along south side of the Historic District, along the north side of the District between Prairie Avenue and Gate 7 and at the southeast corner of the Historic District. The limestone is coated with stucco between Gates 6 and 7 of the north wall, where it also serves as the back of the horse stalls. The only evident changes to these walls are where changes have been made to gates.

Stucco Over CMU, ca 1950

Concrete masonry units with a coating of stucco make up the walls located at the north and east sides of the rodeo arena. No definitive construction date could be determined, but Allyn Middlekamp, who has been at the Fair in one capacity or another since the 1950s, thinks the wall was built in the late 1950's. He remembers that before that there was a wooden fence. In the 1950s there were car races on the (no longer existing) horse racing track and a car went through the fence and onto Beulah Avenue. At that time Allyn was the owner of the local ambulance company and remembers the wreck and recalls that the fence was wrecked and replaced by a block wall shortly thereafter.

Concrete Split Block, 1980s

These solid block walls were installed in the 1980s as part of the remodeling of the east and west main entries. A wall of this type divides the rodeo arena from the horse facilities and defines the edge of the Historic District. The same block was used in various construction projects of the same era, including new restrooms.

**Gates** (Photographs 99-105)

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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<u>Gate No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Service gate. Has been altered. Has one concrete masonry unit pylon on each side
2	Governor's Gate and ticket booth were remodeled in the 1980s or 1990s into a variant of a "Pueblo Revival" style, with stucco, flat roof, curvilinear parapet and false vigas (Photographs 99-100).
3	Not in Historic District.
4	Not in Historic District.
5	Not in Historic District.
6	"Horseman's" Gate and associated ticket booth. The booth is a rectangular concrete masonry unit building with a, corrugated metal roof. The entry point is slightly set back from Small Avenue. It is marked by a stone pillar at the east side and a chain link gate at the west side (Photographs 101-103).
7	Rodeo Gate with metal overhead flat arch supported on a pole and two side hinged livestock gates. (Photographs 104-105)
8	Rodeo Gate. Open space in wall with chain link side sliding gate.
9	Not in Historic District.
10	Maintenance Service Gate with chain link gate.

Other openings in the walls:

- The south wall has been cut open to provide an access from the adjacent parking lot into the fairgrounds. The opening has a chain link gate. The tops of the walls have been cut to slope down toward the entry.
- A section of the wall in a jog near the southeast corner has been cut open to provide access to the maintenance area.

#### *Noncontributing Resources*

The following buildings/structures were either constructed after the 1901-1965 period of significance, or have been substantially altered from their original appearance.

**27. Coors Tavern** [Dugout on current map], 1953 (Photographs 68-69)

This building was originally constructed by the Adolph Coors Company and was known as the Coors Tavern. It was built of concrete masonry unit and brick and consisted of a booth with a beer garden. Currently it is a flat roofed one story stucco rectangular building with a stepped parapet. A flat roof supported by wood posts protects the walkway in front of the building. The building has received numerous remodels and currently has a window configuration and stucco application from the late 1980s or early 1990s. While the building was constructed during the period of significance and continues the original concession function, it does not maintain any of the original materials.

**28. Butler Building**, 1971 (Photograph 68)

Constructed after the period of significance, this metal building is located behind the Dugout (former Coors Tavern). It has a gable roof and an overhead garage door opening on the gable end. It is

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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partly obscured by other buildings and has minimal visual impact.

**29. Lottery Building**, post 1980 (Photograph 96)

Constructed after the period of significance, this Colorado Lottery building has a flat roof, arched windows, false vigas and a stucco finish. It is small in scale and minimal in impact to the setting.

**30. Amphitheater**, 1985 (Photograph 95)

Constructed after the period of significance, this structure has a sloped roof with rounded corners. The roof shelters a low stage. It has a stucco finish and a series of false vigas along the stage backdrop. A sloped grassy area faces the stage separating the building from the street. The amphitheater is small in scale, is set back from the street and is minimal in impact to the setting.

**31. KFC Concession Stand**, 1960s (Photograph 66)

This stand was remodeled recently and is a combined stand for KFC/A&W. It is a small rectangular building with a flat roof and large windows on the north and south sides to serve customers. Major building material is concrete masonry unit. Part of the building is finished with stucco. As a concession stand, the building adds to the festival nature of the state fair. It is very small in scale and has minimal impact on the overall character of the fairgrounds.

**32. Restrooms**, 1989 (Photograph 65)

A split-face-block flat roofed restroom building is located to the south of the Creative Arts Building. The restroom is one of four such buildings that were constructed in the 1980s at different locations on the fairgrounds. The other three restrooms are not located within the Historic District. The building is small in scale and does not detract from the overall character of the District.

**33. Judges stand/stage**, 1987 (Photographs 7, 15)

The judges' stand/stage replaced an older stand that was constructed in 1941. It is built of steel and has a concrete stage located above animal chutes for rodeo events. The stand was not constructed within the period of significance, but it continues the previous function of the judges' stand and is constructed using the same choice of concrete and metal materials as the adjacent grandstands and the bleachers. The stand does not detract from the historic layout or setting.

**34. Judge's/rodeo office**, ca. 1977 (Photograph 7)

A small concrete masonry unit building with metal frame windows a gabled asphalt shingle roof is located behind the rodeo grandstands and has minimal visual impact on the area.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The Colorado State Fairgrounds Historic District is significant under Criterion A. The District is significant in the area of **Agriculture**, as a gathering place for the state's agricultural community. As a vehicle to educate, promote and entertain the public about Colorado agriculture, the Fairgrounds Historic District is significant in the areas of **Education** and in **Entertainment/Recreation**. Since 1901, farmers and stock men and women have come to the annual exposition at this location to display and compare their best products, to see and learn about the latest advances in agricultural technologies and techniques, and to purchase quality livestock. The Fair's audience includes both young and old. The 4-H youth club, which is oriented toward agriculture education, has maintained a steady presence at the fairgrounds since 1918. The 4-H Camp buildings and the exhibit halls, horse stables and barns reflect the Fair's agricultural nature.

A good, clean agriculturally-oriented experience for all ages has always been the theme of Fair activities, while less wholesome sideshow attractions were discouraged. At first the carnival was totally separated from the fairgrounds and located in downtown Pueblo. Fair organizers quickly realized that entertainment features drew additional paying admissions to the Fair and moved them onto the fairgrounds. Over time, new forms of amusements were added to the Fair, including rodeos and performances. The large grandstand and rodeo facilities, the band shell and the move of the midway from downtown to the fairgrounds illustrate the entertainments aspects of the Fair.

The District is also significant under Criterion A in the area of **Social History** because of its association with the federal government's New Deal relief efforts during the Great Depression. Facilitated by the advocacy of local leader and State Fair Commissioner, Ray Talbot, the fairgrounds benefited from a number of New Deal programs. Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) programs and the subsequent Works Progress Administration (WPA) helped fund the construction of six new buildings, the walls, the horse stables and infrastructure improvements at the fairgrounds. The fairgrounds also hosted a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp.

Most of the New Deal-funded buildings are constructed of locally quarried limestone and are fashioned in a manner consistent with the philosophy of the WPA program to use inexpensive (therefore, usually, locally available) materials and to put unskilled workers under the tutelage of a craftsman to allow the workers to learn on the job. One, more elaborate, WPA funded building is the Palace of Agriculture, which was designed by L. E. Heggenberger, the regional (District) engineer for the WPA program. The redundant use of locally quarried limestone on many buildings is a distinctive characteristic of the fairgrounds.

### *Integrity*

The Colorado State Fairgrounds Historic District encompasses the period between 1901 and 1965, beginning with opening day and continuing through the period when the majority of improvements were focused on agriculturally oriented activities. In general the buildings retain integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association for this period. The State Fair's agricultural orientation is visible in the massive scale, well-ventilated structures. Many of the exhibition buildings incorporate features typically found on barns. The grandstands, which are devoted to traditional agriculturally-rooted entertainments such as horse racing and rodeos, are larger scale while the non-agricultural venues, such as the band shell and amphitheater, are smaller in scale. Concession buildings are small and contribute to the seasonal, festive, atmosphere of the Fair without intruding into

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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the overall character of the larger buildings. Open spaces on the grounds allow for portable booths and garden or landscaping features.

The buildings and structures maintain their original scale, placement and design features. In some cases new windows have been installed within the original window openings, but the original opening size and shape are clearly apparent. The non-brick buildings have exposed original materials. While the earliest brick buildings were coated in stucco, some architectural details of these buildings, such as the brick window sills and the decorative brick panels, were left exposed, providing a glimpse of the brick construction. The application of stucco to the brick buildings represents a plan to unify the buildings on the fairgrounds by creating a "White Way" in 1944. As a group, the structures and buildings convey the historic associations that resulted in their creation.

#### *Evolution of the State Fair*

The Colorado State Fairgrounds developed in a manner consistent with national trends, while also exhibiting characteristics specific to Colorado's history. At the national level, scholars trace the evolution of American state fairs to two Merino sheep. The breed was new to America when Elkanah Watson paraded his recently acquired Merinos around the Pittsfield, Massachusetts, town square in 1810. He received such a rousing response from the intrigued locals that he developed an exhibition program. In 1811 he incorporated the Berkshire Agricultural Society and put on an exposition with prizes for the display of livestock. Members of the Society marched in a parade and carried implements including a loom and a spinning wheel. The annual event grew in scope each year, starting in 1812 with the addition of women's and men's domestic manufacture categories.

The Agricultural Society movement spread through the East and South, and then to the Midwest. The system usually followed the "Berkshire Plan" wherein farmers paid dues to an agricultural society and the dues were the basis of the prizes for the annual fair. Unlike the market-based fairs of Europe, American Agricultural Society fairs emphasized education and improvement in farming-related topics and recreation for the rural population. The movement was established in 25 states by the late 1850s. The annual fairs spawned regional and state fairs. The first official state fair was held in Syracuse, New York in 1841, followed by Michigan in 1849 and Illinois in 1854.

Early fairs often returned annually to the same location, but some state fairs were held in a different town each year to avoid accusations of favoritism. The state fair sites established permanence after 1890. Geographer Fred Kniffen noted in his 1949 study of American fairs that

The severe financial panics of the nineties took their toll of fairs. By 1900 the weak had been weeded out and the number and identity of fairs settled down to something approaching a fixed list. State fairs largely completed their selection of permanent sites during this period. Both state and county fairs were generally prosperous after 1900, enabling the more fortunate to invest in substantial buildings and other costly improvements.<sup>2</sup>

The first of these improvements were usually related to the hugely popular horse races held during the fair. Early contests in "fancy riding" and "trials of speed" led to harness racing around the time of the Civil War and drew large crowds to most fairgrounds, in spite of ongoing controversy over the morality of horse racing and associated betting.

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<sup>2</sup>*Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Volume 39, page 274



**Property Name** Colorado State Fairgrounds

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With the rising popularity of rodeo after World War I, the rodeo arena and judging stand became a common feature of fairs in the western part of the United States. Rodeo emerged as public entertainment between 1890 and 1910. Although informal contests took place at ranches in the 1800s the professional rodeo evolved from Wild West Shows, holiday performances and cattlemen's conventions. Early promoters focused national attention on rodeo championship events at Boston Garden and New York City's Madison Square Garden in the 1920s. Contestants throughout the west were attracted to competitions at annual stampedes, roundups and frontier day's events.

Other significant construction occurred in the late 1910s and 1920s when, as Kniffen noted, state governments began to invest in fairground facilities

Carnival entertainments had historically been located outside of the official fairgrounds. Characterized as unsavory activities for the times, the carnivals included food booths and exhibits of "exotic cultures", games of skill, fortune tellers, and risqué shows such as fan or belly dancing. The traveling carnival attractions would position themselves just outside the walls of the fairgrounds, drawing paying customers from the fairgoing crowd, much to the dismay of the fair promoters.

Chicago's 1893 Columbian Exposition was the final stop for these "out of bounds" carnivals. Exposition organizers had confined these less elegant activities to a narrow mile-long strip of open land referred to as the Midway and located between the two parks that held the Exposition. The carnival, supplemented by Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, brought in so much money that future fair and exposition organizers throughout the country made a place inside the fairgrounds walls for these magnetic attractions. Carnivals are usually located on a "Midway" a term adapted from the Midway Plaisance of the Paris International Exposition. (The Ferris Wheel, Crackerjack and the ice cream cone are three standards of the state fair that made their debuts at the Columbian Exposition.)

The draw and nature of amusements is relatively uniform across the country in the evolution of American state fairs. Hot air balloon rides provided early thrills and were replaced by airplane shows beginning around 1909. Automobiles were first introduced as a novelty, but became a staple of the fair. Some fairs hosted "auto polo" featuring teams with a driver and a passenger who advanced the ball. Stock car races and demolition derbies were popular.

Less daring amusements ranged from shows to competitions. Baby contests were particularly popular from the 1890s to the 1930s. Domestic arts competitions, which started out with separate categories for men (furniture making) and women (sewing) offered the chance to display canning and cooking prowess. Baseball and football games were played, usually in the infield of the racing track, starting in the late 1880s.

As America changed from a predominantly rural to an urban society, the fair adapted to new forms of entertainment, while maintaining an agricultural flavor. Cowboy movie stars and country western musicians kept the gate numbers up, but the agricultural focus continues. Fred Kniffen's characterization of fair activity after World War II can be applied to the overall character of today's state fair. He noted:

Fairs have been successful during these most recent times, not only because prosperity is general but also because they have wittingly or accidentally adapted themselves and their activities to the mechanical age, to a population that is more largely urban than rural, and to

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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cleverly conceived competition for crowds and their money.<sup>3</sup>  
*The Colorado State Fairgrounds*

Colorado's first regional fair was the Colorado Agricultural Society First Territorial Fair held in Denver on September 17-18, of 1863. The fair did not remain in Denver for long. By 1872, the City of Pueblo hosted the Southern Colorado Agriculture and Industrial Association Fair on a 100 acre site located just north of Pueblo.

Pueblo's roots extend to Fort Pueblo (also known as El Pueblo), an adobe fort that was built by independent traders in 1842 along the Arkansas River on a well-used trade route. The Arkansas was the international boundary between the United States and Mexico. Although the site was abandoned in the 1850s, the search for gold and silver, and the subsequent settlement of the community of Fountain Creek led to establishment of the City of Pueblo in 1859. Pueblo was incorporated as a town in 1870.

The annual fair was one of many commercial enterprises in this growing city. The arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in 1872, the construction of a plethora of smelters in the period between 1878 and 1890, and the Colorado Coal and Steel Works brought great prosperity. The demand for workers filled the city with immigrants, adding to the town's multicultural flavor. Adjacent communities of South Pueblo (1873) and Central Pueblo (1882) were established as new industries and new residents settled in the bustling town. The three "Pueblos" merged in 1886. With the annexation of the town of Bessemer in 1894, Pueblo reached a population of over 31,000 and prospered as the second largest city in Colorado.

By 1887 the fairgrounds had settled at a permanent location at the former Mineral Park Driving Course (harness racing) on 60 acres within the Pueblo city limits at the intersection of current day Abriendo Avenue and Cleveland Street. In 1888, the Colorado State Legislature officially designated Pueblo as the permanent location for the state fair and authorized all Colorado county commissioners to appropriate funds for their respective county to create a display at the fair.

The Pueblo State Fair lasted three years at this location before the organizers sold the land for a tidy profit and moved to an 80 acre site located at the southwest corner of Minnequa Lake. The Minnequa location proved unpopular. It was distant from the train and required an arduous walk from the street car stop to reach the gates. A general statewide diminishing interest in fairs added to the dwindling returns.

Extraordinary promotional efforts for the 1900 fair raised attendance and hopes for larger fairs to come. In 1900, a new "State Fair Association" incorporated and sold shares at \$10 each with a total capitalization of \$50,000. The Association purchased the 25 acre "Ray" tract and a 5-acre parcel in the Mapleton Addition, to form the core of the current fairgrounds. This more easily accessible site was located along two street car lines. Directors, primarily prominent Puebloans, were A. Sonneborn, President; A.R. Pierce, Secretary; and members George Holmes, G.L.L. Gamn, J.G. Chapman, J. Will Johnson, W.G. Fraser, Jno H. Voorhees, Asbury White, A.T. King, R.T. Covey, and T. H. Devin. A major stockholder (300 shares) was the Pueblo Driving Club, whose members anticipated holding their horse races on the soon to be constructed ½ mile track.

The Directors extolled the virtues of the enterprise in the April 28, 1901 *Pueblo Chieftain*, "...The association....confidently expects to bring to Pueblo more people than have ever been in the

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<sup>3</sup> *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Volume 39, page 278

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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city.....upon any previous function.”

The new grounds opened for the 1901 Fair with a grandstand seating 2,000 people, 100 horse stables, a race track and a large exhibit building. 16,000 people attended. The midway was not located at the fairgrounds but had a home in downtown Pueblo between Main and Grand Streets.

The State Fair Association was a private company, but in 1903 the Association obtained state funding to increase the premiums. By 1903 the gate fees were 50 cents for adults, 25 cents for children and 75 cents for adults on horseback. The grounds were expanded at the southeast corner some time between 1901 and 1904, resulting in a site the shape of a rectangle except for a very small piece at the southeast corner that remains outside the fairgrounds to today.

A 1904-5 Sanborn map shows a well developed facility with a 60 foot wide half-mile race oval stretching between Beulah and Acero Avenues, an approximately 300 foot long grandstand, two sets of U-shaped wood horse stalls, four buildings that appear to be halls (three are named the Newton, Floral, Pueblo buildings) and a large “State Building.” A dining hall and a residence, presumably that of the manager, are also on the grounds. The fairgrounds were enclosed by an 8 foot fence.

A reference in the 1905 premium book <sup>4</sup> to the “major equinoctial storms” and an assurance that the “Buildings have been repaired and improved...” suggest 1904 was a difficult year. Undaunted, the 1908 Fair program boasted of seven new buildings, one of which may have survived to the present and now serves as the Cultural Heritage Center.<sup>5</sup>

The Fair proceeded on a Monday-Friday schedule for one week in September. Local supporters pitched in to make the Fair a success. Pueblo merchants and boosters held a parade downtown, advertised “Fair Days” sales in the stores and organized special events every year. The *Pueblo Chieftain* announced that juries would not be selected during fair week. The *Chieftain* published a “State Fair Edition” on the Sunday before opening day and continues this tradition to today.

Activities on the fairgrounds included the gamut of agricultural exhibits and shows, peppered with a thrill show here and there. “Better Babies” contests were popular in the nineteen teens. The 1914 show featured a flying exhibition that ended tragically when pilot Weldon Cooke crashed his homemade plane just outside the fairgrounds and was killed. Automobiles made their way onto the grounds in the form of exhibitions, competitions and visitor parking at the west end.

The State Fair Association continued to seek state funding. A \$10,000 appropriation was approved by the Colorado State Legislature in 1915 only to be vetoed by Governor George Carlson. The Association eventually agreed in 1917 to deed the State Fair property to the State of Colorado<sup>6</sup>, and the State Legislature created the State Fair Commission, whose members were appointed by the Governor. The State supported the operations via a .01 mil levy. Additional land to the west of the old Acero Avenue boundary was acquired in 1920, extending the boundary to its current Prairie Avenue border.

In 1918 the State Fair Association’s report to the Governor noted severe limitations on the 1917 and

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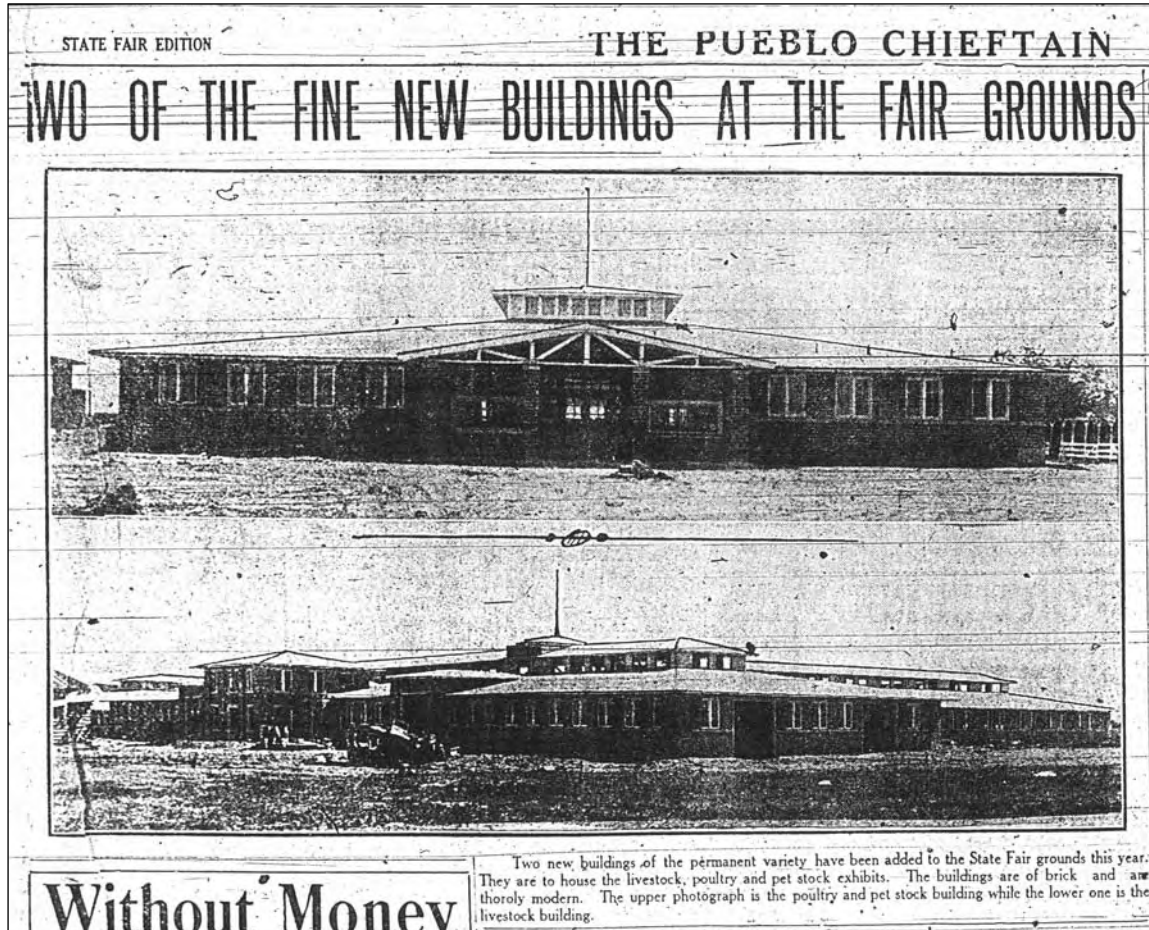
<sup>4</sup> A premium book is a listing of prizes awarded in each fair entry category for that year.

<sup>5</sup> The construction date for this building has not been definitively established.

<sup>6</sup> A real property inventory conducted by Simon P. Elliot P.E. in 1966 indicates this land transaction was not officially filed until 1919.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

1918 fairs. In 1917, the grounds were occupied by Colorado Militia troops and used for training for the First World War. The site was called Camp Carlson. The decision to hold a fair was delayed until late into the year. In 1918, the Fair was held with a heavy emphasis on contributing to the war effort and



returned  
only  
\$32,000

*These 1921 photographs show the new buildings on the grounds, now known as the Gallery of Fine Arts (upper photo) and the Small Animal Building (lower building).*

The 1920s were better years. Continued state support resulted in the construction of two new brick buildings in 1921. The Gallery of Fine Arts building, which was originally known and operated as the Poultry and Pet Stock Pavilion, and the Small Animal building (originally the Livestock Pavilion) were the first permanent structures to be constructed under the auspices of the State Fair Commission using the state mil levy money. The mil levy increased from a .01 mil to a .03 mil in 1927.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> The Colorado State Fair Commission met in the Opera House in downtown Pueblo. The building burned in 1922, taking the early records of the Commission along with it.

**Property Name** Colorado State Fairgrounds

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A new brick building, called the Exposition Building was constructed in 1928. Now known as the Creative Arts Building, the structure was designed by well known Pueblo architect Walter DeMordaunt and was jointly funded by the State Fair Commission and the Pueblo Manufacturers and Jobbers Association. The old wood grandstands, were replaced by a steel and wood structure in 1930.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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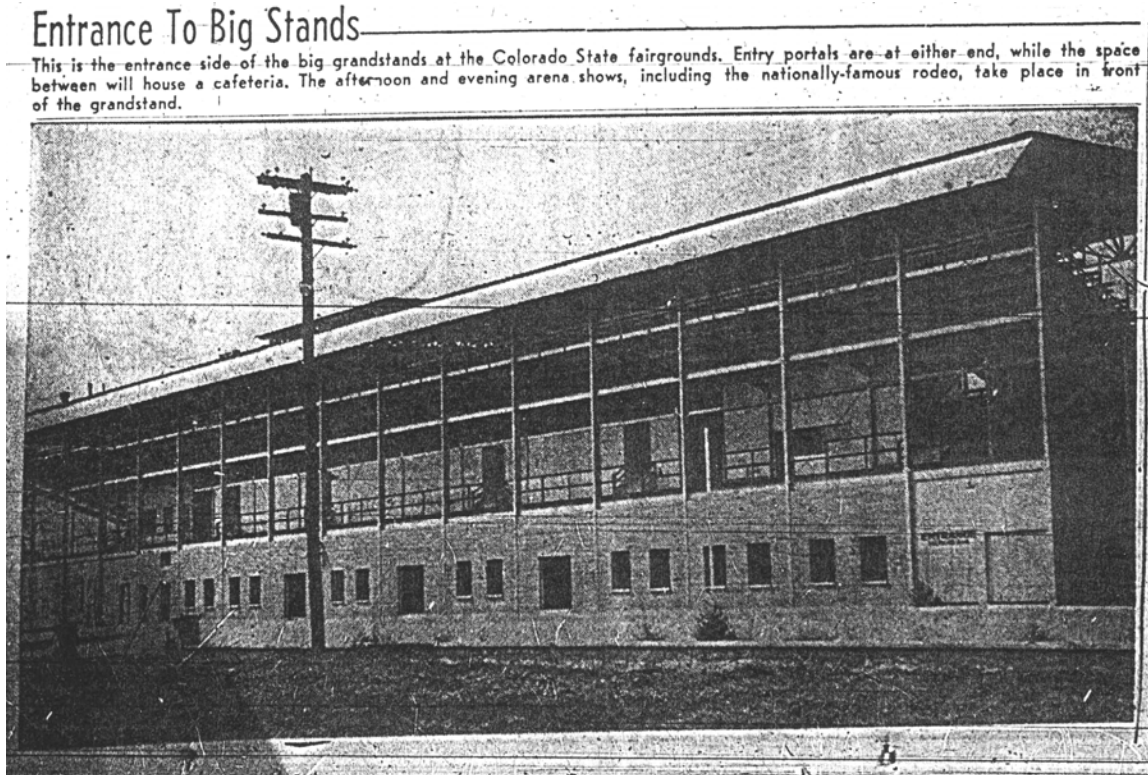
*The Creative Arts Building was designed by Walter Mordaunt and completed in 1928. This photograph was taken in the 1930s when a CCC camp used the building as administrative headquarters. (Pueblo Public Library)*

The 1920s also saw the first permanent buildings for the Colorado 4-H Club. 4-H began as a boys and girls club in 1902 in Clark County, Ohio, and quickly became a national operation in 1907. By 1912, over 73,000 boys and 23,000 girls were enrolled in club work. 4-H further established a national presence under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 which provided federal funding for cooperative extension offices and included the 4-H clubs under the duties and expenditures of the extension office.

The 4-H approach is to “learn by doing”. Club members raise and exhibit livestock and participate in fair competitions. Their camps have developed at state and county fairgrounds throughout the country. In Colorado, 4-H started in 1910. In 1918, the Colorado club had more the 4,890 members when 72 boys and girls attended the first camp at the Colorado State Fairgrounds. Campers slept in two tents and erected a cook tent. The 4-H Club constructed permanent dormitories in 1923. The two separate girls and boys dorms were to form the nucleus of Camp Tobin named for Senator John J. Tobin (Montrose) who was instrumental in obtaining \$25,000 from the State Legislature to build the first two permanent 4-H buildings. 4-H’ers have come to Camp Tobin every year since 1918 except for breaks during World War Two and the 1951 Polio Epidemic.

The late 1920s and early 1930s saw the beginning of life-long associations between the fairgrounds and two men. Ray Talbot came to the State Fair Commission in 1929, was elected president of the Commission in 1931 and continued to serve as president until 1953, just two years before his death. Frank Means managed the Fair from 1936-1950.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds



*This photograph from the 1942 Pueblo Chieftain State Fair Edition shows the south side of the grandstands 12 years after their completion.*

Raised in Pueblo, Talbot served in the Colorado State Legislature from 1926-1936 where he fought for increased state support of the Fair. He was elected as Edwin Johnson's Lieutenant Governor of Colorado and served as Colorado's governor for ten days in January of 1937, to complete Johnson's term when Governor Johnson became a U.S. Senator.

Beginning in 1932 Talbot concurrently served in his state offices while working as the Pueblo City Commissioner for Parks and Highways (which also included the Engineering Water and Power Divisions). Upon his return to Pueblo, Talbot continued as Pueblo City Commissioner until 1948, when he was appointed temporary postmaster and in 1949 was named permanent Pueblo postmaster. Talbot's obituary in the Pueblo Chieftain credits him with helping to eliminate the \$165,000 deficit against the Fair in 1929. He assisted the Fair's growth from an event which attracted 20,000 people in the early 1930s to a modern attraction drawing crowds in excess of 200,000 in the 1950s. Talbot was the key leader in the City of Pueblo's remarkably extensive participation in the programs of the Roosevelt Administration during the Depression, and in bringing Works Progress Administration funding to the fairgrounds. By 1939, the City had partnered in at least 123 projects totaling \$4,245,387.<sup>8</sup>

Talbot witnessed a change in oversight of the Fair when numerous state agriculture-related offices were combined under the Division of Agriculture in 1933, led by a governor-appointed director. The

<sup>8</sup>*Pueblo Lore*. Volume 19, No.2 February 1994, page 13.

**Property Name** Colorado State Fairgrounds

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State Fair Commission was included in the functions placed under this new Division. This Division hired Frank Means in 1936.

Frank H. Means was raised in Saguache and graduated with a law degree from the University of Colorado in 1907. He served as the County Attorney in Saguache County. He was elected to the Colorado Senate in 1915 at the young age of 28 and was instrumental in creating the Colorado State Fair Commission in 1917. When he was hired to manage the fairgrounds in 1936, the organization was \$117,000 in debt. By the time he retired in 1950, the operation had an \$88,000 surplus. Means remained in the Pueblo area and died in 1968.

Means took over management of the Fair in the midst of a flurry of construction projects. New Deal funding helped finance the construction of six new buildings, horse stalls, and a stone wall between 1934 and 1940. The building boom started in 1934 with a 4-H dining hall that was funded through the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The same program initiated the construction of the Sheep and Swine Building.

Congress approved the Federal Emergency Relief Act and the accompanying Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) in May of 1933 as one of President Roosevelt's first New Deal programs. FERA's charge was to channel grants to state relief through a \$1 match for every \$3 of local or state pledge, as a stopgap until recovery began across the nation. The funding focused on relief, rather than on job creation.

Colorado's legislature refused to create a funding source for the FERA match, leading to an eventual stalemate between the State and FERA administrators. When the Colorado General Assembly finally passed a funding bill in January of 1934, federal money was forwarded to the state and supplemented relief efforts for that year. The next year proved no easier. All Colorado FERA funded projects halted for a week in July as the State and Federal agents haggled over who should pay for the workman's compensation benefit. At this time there were 25,000 people employed via FERA programs in Colorado.<sup>9</sup> The FERA program ended in November, 1935 and most projects were transferred to the newly created Works Progress Administration (WPA).

Under the administration of Paul D. Shriver, Colorado FERA projects were transferred to the WPA at the very beginning of the WPA program in July of 1935. The WPA expanded on the FERA programs, and replaced the relief handouts with projects that created jobs on smaller scale and relatively inexpensive public works projects. The WPA provided 5/6 of the project cost against a sponsor's 1/6 match. Sponsors were usually local governments or agencies.

The WPA changed to the Works Projects Administration in 1939 and became a division of the Federal Works Agency. By this time, the required local sponsor match was up to ¼ of the total project. The new WPA continued into 1941 with declining employment roles. As the nation's energy shifted to preparation for war, the WPA was solely dedicated to the war effort in 1942. In 1943, President Roosevelt dissolved the WPA.

The WPA had a significant impact on Colorado. Over 150,000 Coloradoans were employed during the program's life. James Wickens' study of Colorado in the Great Depression notes that WPA funds of \$109,060,579 combined with \$32,897,960 from sponsors completed projects throughout the state.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Colorado in the Great Depression by James Wickens, Page 119

<sup>10</sup> Colorado in the Great Depression by James Wickens, Page 304



Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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The WPA continued to leave the mark of the New Deal programs on the state fairgrounds. In 1936-37, workers demolished dilapidated wood horse stalls and constructed new stone stalls, complete with individual ventilation and electric lights. According to the February 1937 *WPA Worker*, the stalls were budgeted at \$30,000 per 50-stall unit, with \$25,000 per unit coming from the WPA program. A paddock was added in 1937. The exterior stone walls of the new stalls formed the north wall of the fairgrounds. Workers also constructed a matching ten foot tall stone wall that enclosed most of the grounds, although it appears a wood fence encompassed the north and east sides of the racetrack. In 1938 an Administration Building was completed. This building served as the Fairground Manager's quarters in the 1940s and 1950s. A second 4-H building, the auditorium, was completed in 1938.

All of the WPA building projects at the Fairgrounds used locally quarried limestone. The distinctive large slabs of stone are evident on other Pueblo WPA projects including the Pueblo Airport hangar and the Mineral Park Palace. Howard L. Burnham is identified as one of the local masons who taught the Pueblo crews how to cut and use the stone.<sup>11</sup>

The WPA projects were not limited to buildings. Workers repaired and replaced concrete sidewalks throughout the fairgrounds, installed a new sewer system and oil surfaced the roadways. The Pueblo City Engineer's annual report of 1938 also lists \$30,000 of WPA landscaping work completed at the Fairgrounds.

Civilian Conservation Corps Company 801-SP-6-C made a temporary camp at the fairgrounds, commandeering the Exposition Building for their administrative headquarters, until the camp was established at the Pueblo Mountain Park in Beulah. A November 15, 1933 article in the *Pueblo Chieftain* noted that 314 CCC workers arrived at the fairgrounds.

First authorized by Congress as the Emergency Conservation Work Program in 1933, the program did not officially change its name to the Civilian Conservation Corps until the Congressional Act of June 1937. CCC work programs focused on providing unemployed young men with work that would conserve the nation's natural resources. James Wickens notes in his study of the Depression in Colorado that the CCC was unique among New Deal relief agencies because its success depended on the collaboration of the Departments of Labor, War, Agriculture and the Interior.<sup>12</sup> The first group of Colorado enrollees arrived at Fort Logan, south of Denver, in April 1933. More than 30,000 men were employed by the Colorado CCC between 1933 and 1942. More than three quarters of the enrollees were from the state of Colorado.<sup>13</sup>

One final WPA project took a long time to complete. The Palace of Agriculture received funding in 1940, but the shortages of materials and workers during World War II delayed completion until 1949. The building was constructed in phases between 1940 and 1949. The plans called for four outer sections surrounding a sunken center court under a barrel vaulted ceiling. Each outer section was constructed sequentially with exterior grade walls on both the interior and exterior facades so the wings could be occupied before the entire building was completed. This construction approach allowed the State Fair to honestly advertise the "New" Palace of Agriculture in State Fair programs for almost 10 years as new work was done each year.

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<sup>11</sup> *Pueblo Lore*. Volume 19, No.2 February 1994, page 12.

<sup>12</sup> Colorado in the Great Depression by James Wickens, Page 128

<sup>13</sup> Colorado in the Great Depression by James Wickens, Page 132.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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*Workers at the Swine and Sheep Building (1934-1936). Pueblo Public Library Photo Collection*



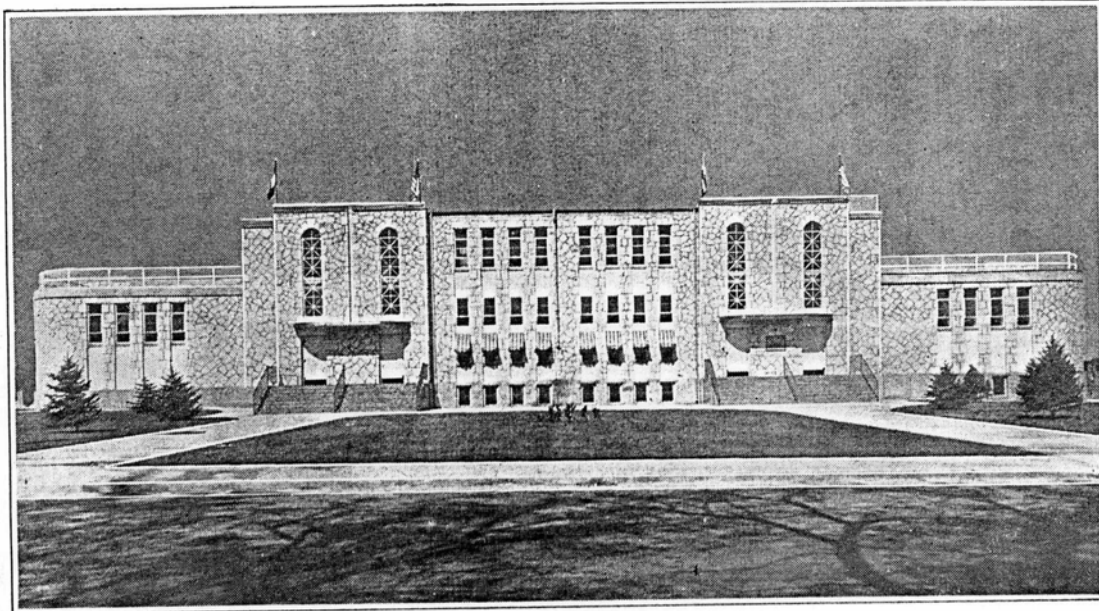
*The 4-H Auditorium, a building in Camp Tobin, was constructed in 1938 using WPA funds. Note the upside down WPA sign to the right of the porch. Pueblo Public Library Photo Collection.*

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds



A page from the April 1937 WPA worker shows the fairgrounds and the work on the paddock (Colorado Pavilion).

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds



NEW AGRICULTURAL BUILDING

*The 1942 State Fair Program shows the finished exterior of the Palace of Agriculture.*

Other construction and expansion took place in the 1940s. The 1941 Fair Program refers to the rundown "State" building (presumably the building of the same name noted on the 1904-05 Sanborn Map) that would soon be demolished.<sup>14</sup> Efforts for a new look are also evident in the work in 1944 when all of the 1920s-era brick buildings on the property were coated with white stucco to create the effect of a "White Way" and to harmonize with the light colored limestone buildings. New buildings included two livestock barns (current FFA dormitory and current children's' barn) the massive Agricultural Palace and the Rabbit Building (now the Natural Resources Building) billed as the "Largest Rabbit Show Building in the World"! The Livestock Exhibition Hall that had been built in 1921 received an interior remodel in 1948 to show only cattle. The remodel allowed room for 900 head.

Attendance was up to 131,000 people at the beginning of the 1940s. The 1942 Fair program boasts of paved streets and expanded concrete sidewalks. With increased emphasis on the rodeo and horse events, a judges' stand and rodeo bleachers were installed in the race track infield and new bleachers were added to the sides of the grandstands. An underground horse barn was also installed in this area, but has since been filled because of drainage issues. The pressing need for parking led to use of the land donated in 1939 by the City of Pueblo.<sup>15</sup> This property is located on the south side of the Arroyo Street boundary.

<sup>14</sup> Historic photographs indicate the Newton, Floral, Pueblo and buildings that were present in 1904 were removed by the early 1940s.

<sup>15</sup> A real property inventory conducted by Simon P. Elliot P.E. in 1966 indicates this land transaction was not officially filed until 1943.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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The 1940s were also the years of changes in the daily structure of the Fair. The dates were moved from September to August and some interesting “firsts” took place. The first pigeon show at the Fair was held in 1948 and the first 4-H Rodeo in the nation occurred in 1949. Attendance grew to a record breaking 160,000 in 1948. The second half of the decade was filled with optimism, perhaps as best described by an August 23, 1948 *Pueblo Chieftain* article proclaiming that year’s fair to be among the best, except for what the article portrayed as a *minor* detail of a fear-crazed bronc that escaped the grounds and injured 23 people.

The Future Farmers of America (FFA) began to have a presence at the Fair. The FFA was founded in 1928 in Kansas City to bring together students, teachers and agribusiness to solidify support for agricultural education. Membership dues for that first year were set at ten cents a year. By 1934, all states had delegations except for Rhode Island (entered 1950) and Alaska (entered 1976). The all male organization maintained a presence at many State Fairs. In 1969 the organization adopted a national policy to admit women. Today there are 490,017 FFA members, aged 12-21 in 7,210 chapters in all 50 states.

Pueblo’s population boomed in the 1940s, growing from about 60,000 to 90,000 by 1949. The growth was part of a strong urbanization trend in Colorado. In the 1940s, 78% of the state’s population growth was in the four Front Range, urbanizing counties of Denver, Arapahoe, Jefferson and Adams. The 1950 census indicated that 42% of Colorado’s entire population was living in these four counties. The audience for the State Fair was changing, as were the administrative entities in Colorado State Government.

The State Fair Commission was made an independent agency under the Executive Branch in 1949. The 1953 State Legislature expanded the State Fair Commission from three to five members with one member from Pueblo and one member from each of the four Congressional districts within the State. The Governor appointed a legislative committee to advise in matters of fair management. The Fair dates were officially established as the last week in August.

By the 1950s, the Fair was drawing over 250,000 people. The decade had one very difficult year in 1951 when three days of rain and the polio epidemic were credited with the Fair’s net loss of \$28,059 and drastic reduction in attendance by 100,000 people. In 1951 Colorado also celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood with a historical pageant at the State Fair. For the remainder of the 1950s, Fair officials focused on a changing demographic.

Fair promoters across the country realized the draw of celebrities and touring acts. The Colorado State Fair’s programs from the 1950s featured an interesting mix of entertainments no doubt slated to attract Colorado’s rural and city folk alike. Jack Benny’s “man” Rochester, and his Harlem Nights Revue performed in 1952 along with “25 people all colored”. That year, the Harlem Nights shared top billing with the Sons of the Pioneers country singers. In 1954, Gene Autry made an appearance, stock car races whizzed around the oval track and the Colorado State Historical Society offered its first exhibit at the Fair. The 1957 program featured western star Rex Allen, and highlighted exhibits from 19 Colorado counties. Nat King Cole led 1958’s musical line-up.

Another innovation was a break from the 52-year old tradition of holding Fair “week” from Monday through Friday. In 1953 the Fair week was changed to Wednesday through Sunday to encourage people to visit during the weekend or to attend an evening entertainment.

While the new attractions focused on music and entertainment, the Fair struggled to maintain its

**Property Name** Colorado State Fairgrounds

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wholesome character. The 1950 program's description of the midway promised that "... only high class and clean entertainment will be sanctioned." The 1952 shows must have been a bit scandalous because the 1953 program assured that the Sally Rand fan dance was gone, as were horse racing, fireworks and games of chance.

All of these entertainments had some interesting consequences. Allyn Middlekamp, the owner of the ambulance company that serviced the Fair for many years, recalls that in the 1950s there were car races on the horse racing track and a car went through the fence and onto Beulah Avenue. The fence was replaced by a block wall shortly thereafter.

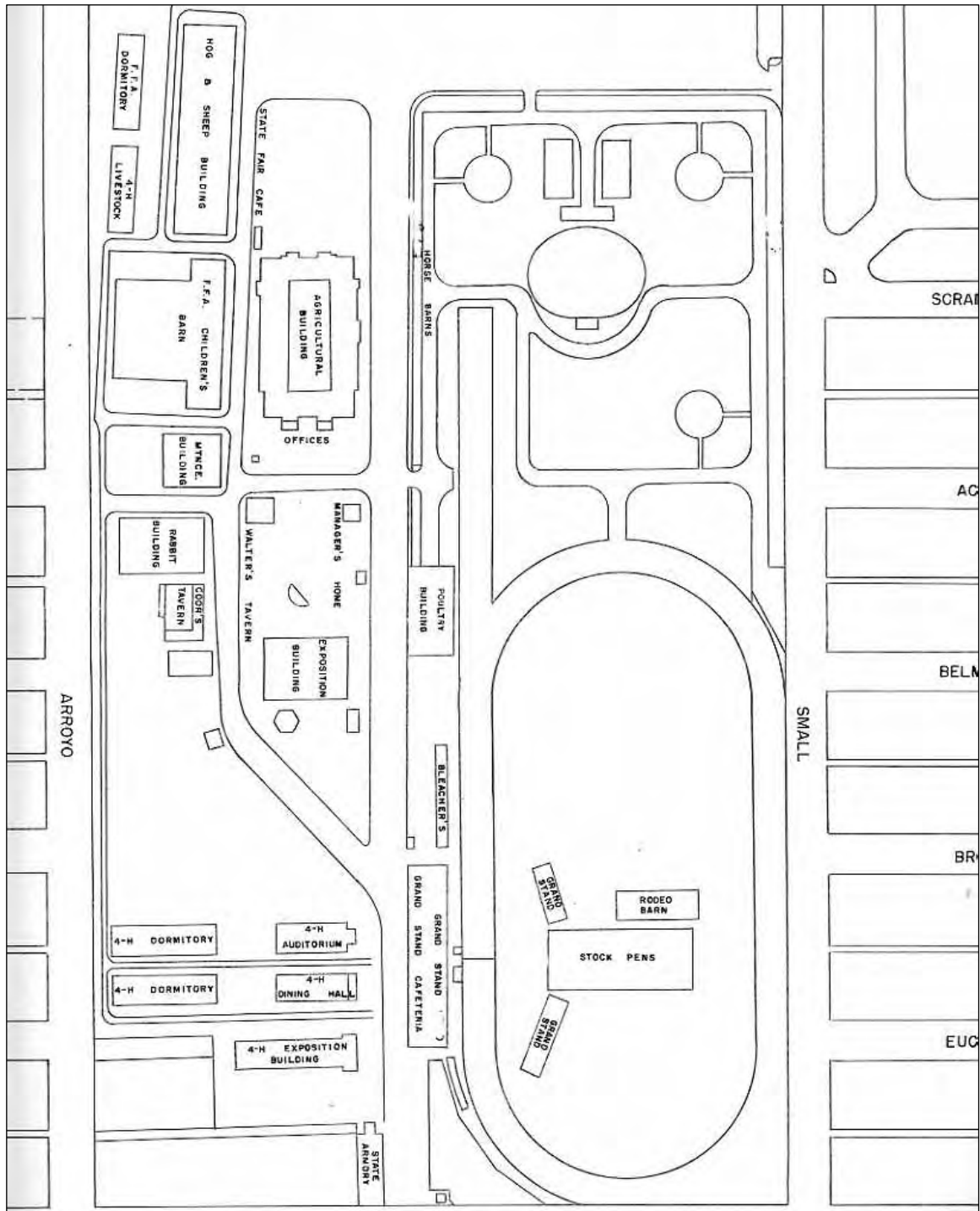
Construction projects in the 1950s focused on concessions and entertainment, including the State Fair Café (1951), the Coors Beer Garden (1953) and the State Fair Band shell (1954). The 4-H Camp added an exhibit hall in 1956. It is likely that by this time the midway had been operating for some time in the open area located along the "Colorado Concourse" and east of the Rabbit Barn (now the Natural Resources Building). The midway had been located at the southwest end of the grounds in the 1930s.

Expanding exhibition needs were addressed in 1964 by construction of a livestock pavilion. This huge 97,400 square foot building was designed with metal supports that were spaced to accommodate twice the length of the average bull. The building cost \$647,350. Designed by Pueblo architect, James K. Holst and constructed by the Al Jersin Construction Company, the pavilion was the last agriculture exhibit building constructed on the fairgrounds.

Administrative changes in the 1960s included a name change to the Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition, a creation of the Office of the Manager of the Fair by the State Legislature, and the re-assignment of the State Fair Commission and the new Office to the Agriculture Department in 1968. In 1961, the Fair acquired the adjacent Armory site on Beulah. In 1967 Fiesta Days were incorporated into the Fair program to recognize and include the contributions of the Hispanic community. The first Fiesta Days theme was "Saluda Amigos" and featured Antonio Aguilar's Mexican Rodeo.

Fair organizers continue to adapt to their perception of Colorado interests. Some of the changes and construction projects completed after 1965 have removed historic aspects of the fairgrounds that were considered not relevant to current operations. This work included removing the oval racetrack, and relocating the midway from within the original walled fairgrounds to the large asphalt lot to the south. New construction focused on entertainment and horse races, including new wood horse stalls in 1967 for pari-mutuel racing, additional horse related structures such as the corral and pavilion in the 1970s and 80s, and the large events center at the northwest portion of the grounds. Other work has focused on revising traffic and pedestrian circulation, redevelopment of the entry gates, and installing additional bathrooms. Much of the work occurred in 1983 when a Colorado State Fair Authority was created which was an independent political subdivision. Since 1997, the Authority has been a division of the Department of Agriculture.

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds



A slightly truncated map from 1962 shows the layout of the fairgrounds near the end of the period of significance for the historic district. The west end (top of the map) that is not shown on this map includes the feed barn that was built in 1944 and the area where the Exhibition Hall and Dairy "Bar" would be built in 1964. (North is to the right.)

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

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#### Interviews

Middlekamp, Allyn. Interviewed June, 2006 by Jill Seyfarth of Durango, Colorado. (Buildings and Grounds Specialist Employee of the Colorado State Fair. Native to Pueblo and former owner of the ambulance company that served the Fairgrounds. Grew up in the neighborhood of the fairgrounds.)

Williams, George. Interviewed and telephone interview in June and July 2006 by Jill Seyfarth of Durango, Colorado. (Retired Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Pueblo and local historian. Pueblo native and family friend of many former fairgrounds personnel.)

**Property Name** Colorado State Fairgrounds

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying site map. Most of the District is defined by the perimeter wall with the following clarifications and exceptions:

Substantial changes to the west wall, construction of the Events Center in 1995, and infill in the horse grounds within the U created by the horse stalls have resulted in excluding those areas from the District. The excluded horse grounds are bound on the east by the split face block wall and include the area located 10 feet away from the stone horse stall rows. The excluded area to the west of the Livestock Pavilion and Dairy Bar includes the area located 10 feet away from the pavilion and Dairy Bar.

Boundaries of the district that are defined by the walls include an area located five feet away from the wall or, in the case of the wall being located next to a public street, the distance between the wall and the back of the curb of the street.

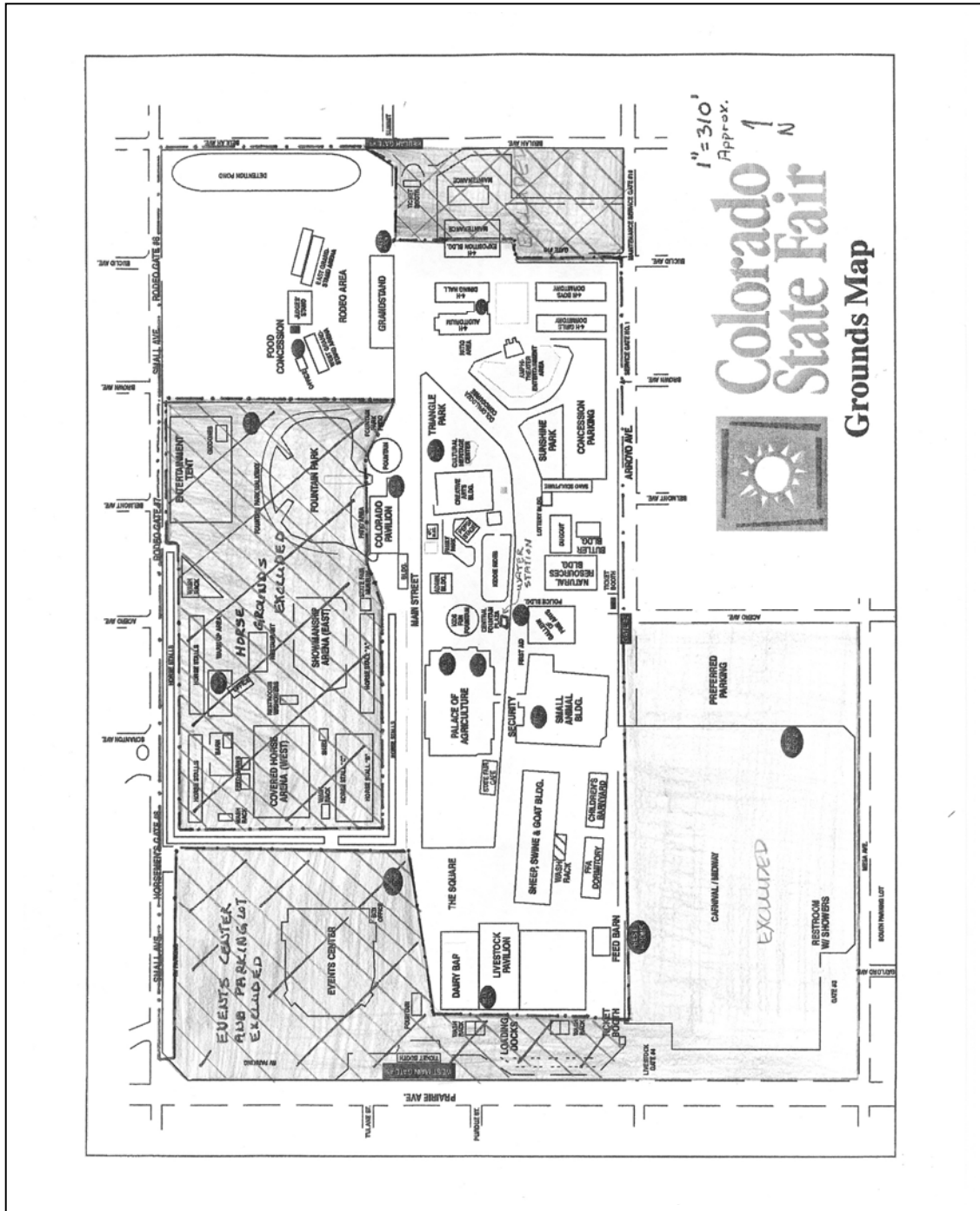
The boundary located at the east edge of 4-H Exposition Building is a line midway between the 4-H Building and the Maintenance Building.

**UTMs**

Zone	Easting	Northing
13	531257	4233336
13	531408	4233539
13	532012	4233543
13	531924	4233159

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

Site Map



**Property Name** Colorado State Fairgrounds

**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Name of Property: Colorado State Fairgrounds  
 Location: Pueblo, Pueblo County  
 Photographer: Jill Seyfarth  
 Date of Photographs: 3/22/2006  
 Negatives: Cultural Resource Planning, Durango

*Photo Location*  
Photo No.    Map Sheet No.    Camera Direction    Photographic Information

**Overviews**

1	1	W	Main Street Overview
2	1	W	Colorado Concourse Overview
3	1	NW	Stall Row Overview
4	2	N	One of three exposures (#'s 4-6) creating a panorama of Colorado Concourse and Family Park--Overview
5	2	N	see Photo 4 description above
6	2	N	see Photo 4 description above

**Grandstands, rodeo areas, horse paddock, stalls**

7	1	E	Rodeo area overview shows grandstands, stage/judging platform, office
8	1	SW	Grandstands
9	1	NW	Grandstands
10	1	E	Grandstands
11	1	SW	Grandstands
12	1	N	South side of wall located west of grandstands
13	1	N	Detail of windows obscured in photo 12
14	1	SW	North side of wall & ticket booth located west of grandstands
15	1	N	Rodeo grandstands/judge's platform/stage
16	1	SE	Rear of rodeo grandstand
17	2	NE	South side of Paddock (Colorado Pavilion)
18	1	SW	Paddock (Colorado Pavilion)
19	1	SE	Paddock (Colorado Pavilion)
20	1	N	Interior of Paddock (Colorado Pavilion)
21	1	W	South arm of stall row
22	1	N	West arm of stall row
23	1	NW	North arm of stall row
24	1	SW	Stall row close up
25	1	S	Stall row close up

**Property Name** Colorado State Fairgrounds

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Photo Location</i>		<i>Camera Direction</i>	<i>Photographic Information</i>
	<i>Map Sheet No.</i>			
26	1		NE	Exterior of west and south arms of stall row
27	1		SE	Exterior of west arm of stall row
<b>4-H Complex(Camp Tobin)</b>				
28	2		S	4-H Exposition Bldg (concrete wall at left is not part of the building)
29	2		SE	4-H Exposition Bldg - front and side
30	1		NE	4-H Exposition Bldg rear
31	2		S	4-H Dining Hall-front
32	2		SW	4-H Dining Hall-east side
33	1		NW	4-H Dining Hall-rear
34	1		S	4-H Auditorium-front
35	2		SW	4-H Auditorium-east side
36	1		NE	4-H Auditorium-west side
37	1		N	4-H Auditorium-rear
38	1		S	4-H Dormitories (Boys on left or east, girls on right or west)-front
39	1		E	4-H Dormitories-west side and rear
40	1		W	4-H Dormitory-east side and rear
<b>Family Park structures and concession stands</b>				
41	1		W	Cultural Heritage Center-east side
42	1		S	Cultural Heritage Center-north side
43	1		N	Cultural Heritage Center-south side
44	1		N	Creative Arts Building (Exposition Bldg)-front
45	1		NW	Creative Arts Building (Exposition Bldg)-east side
46	2		SE	Creative Arts Building- (Exposition Bldg)west side
47	2		S	Creative Arts Building (Exposition Bldg)-rear
48	1		N	Creative Arts Building (Exposition Bldg)
49	2		NE	Administration Building -west and south sides
50	2		NW	Administration Building-east and south sides
51	2		SW	Administration Building-east and north sides
52	1		NW	Palace of Agriculture-front
53	1		SW	Palace of Agriculture-north side
54	1		NE	Palace of Agriculture-south side
55	1		E	Palace of Agriculture-rear
56	1		NW	Palace of Agriculture- court
57	1		E	Palace of Agriculture
58	1		NE	State Fair Café
59	1		SE	State Fair Café-rear
60	1		NE	Water stand-south and west sides
61	2		SW	Water stand-north and east sides
62	2		NE	Band shell
63	2		SE	Band shell

**Property Name** Colorado State Fairgrounds

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Map Sheet No.</i>	<i>Camera Direction</i>	<i>Photographic Information</i>
64	1	NW	Older Restroom
65	1	NE	New (1980s era) Restroom
66	2	SE	KFC/A&W Concession
67	2	NW	Vineland Lutheran Food Booth
68	1	SW	Dugout (Coors Tavern) Concession and Butler Building (in rear)
69	1	S	Dugout Concession (Coors Tavern)
70	1	S	Gallery of Fine Arts (Poultry and Pet Stock Pavilion) -front or north
71	1	SE	Gallery of Fine Arts (Poultry and Pet Stock Pavilion) -front and west side
72	1	NE	Gallery of Fine Arts (Poultry and Pet Stock Pavilion) -rear or south, and west
73	1	SW	Gallery of Fine Arts (Poultry and Pet Stock Pavilion) - front and east side

**Buildings located south and west of Colorado Concourse**

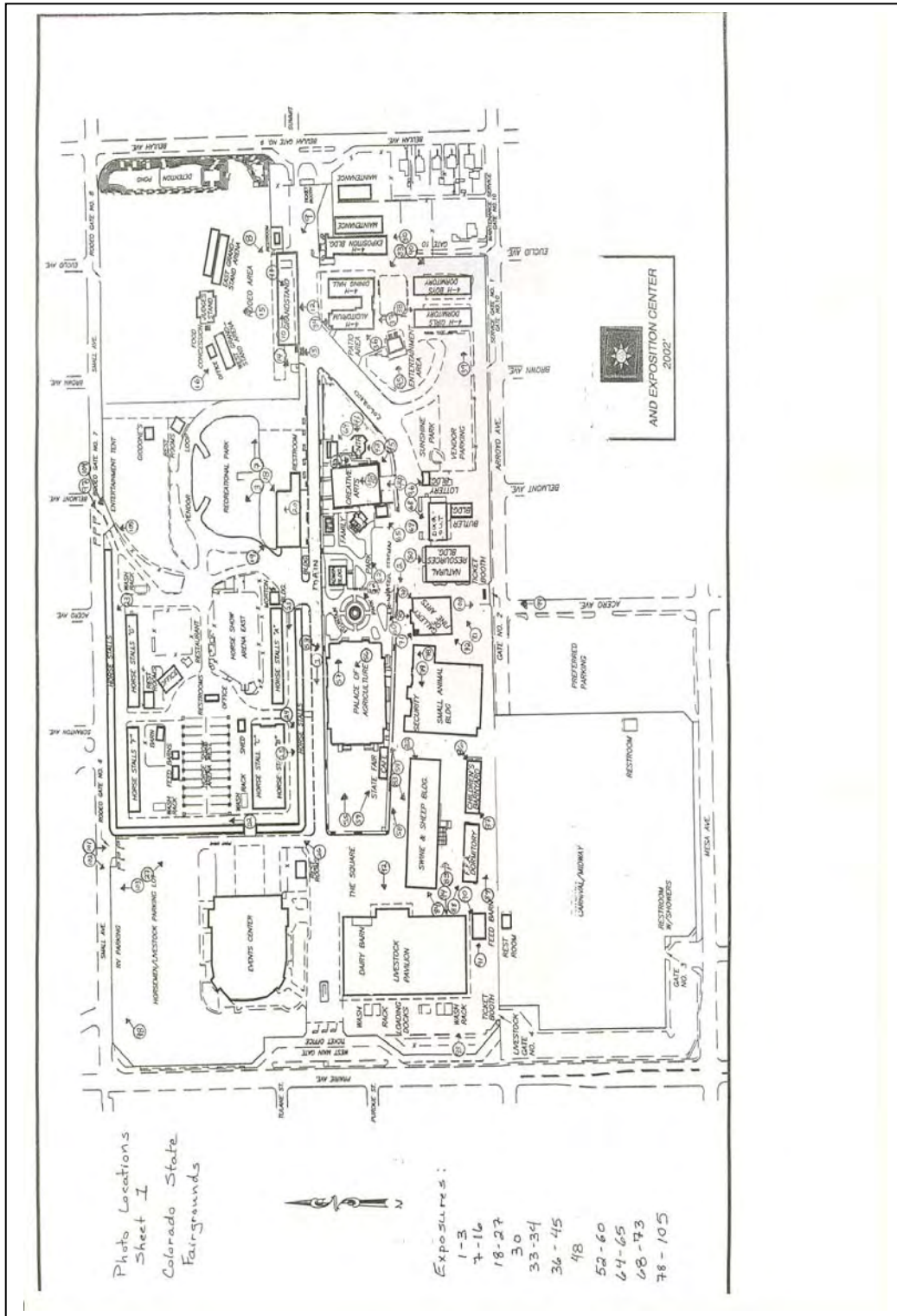
74	3	SW	Small Animal Building (Livestock Pavilion)-front or north and east
75	3	NW	Small Animal Building (Livestock Pavilion)-east side
76	3	ENE	Small Animal Building (Livestock Pavilion)-rear or south and west side
77	3	NE	Small Animal Building (Livestock Pavilion)-west side
78	1	N	Small Animal Building (Livestock Pavilion)
79	1	W	Small Animal Building (Livestock Pavilion)
80	1	S	Natural Resources Building (Rabbit Bldg)-front
81	1	NE	Natural Resources Building (Rabbit Bldg)-west and rear
82	1	SW	Swine and Sheep Building-east end
83	1	WSW	Swine and Sheep Building-north side
84	1	NE	Swine and Sheep Building-west end
85	1	E	Swine and Sheep Building-south side
86	1	SW	Children's Barnyard (4-H Barn)-east and north sides
87	1	E	Children's Barnyard (4-H Barn)-west and south sides
88	1	SE	FFA Dorm (4-H Barn)-west and north sides
89	1	E	FFA Dorm (4-H Barn)-south side
90	1	SW	Feed Barn-east and north sides
91	1	E	Feed Barn-west side
92	1	W	Livestock Pavilion-east side
93	1	E	Livestock Pavilion-west side
94	1	SW	Livestock Pavilion-covered stalls on south side
95	1	E	Amphitheater

**Property Name** Colorado State Fairgrounds

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Map Sheet No.</i>	<i>Camera Direction</i>	<i>Photographic Information</i>
96	1	SE	Lottery Building
<b>Walls and gates</b>			
97	1	SW	Typical of WPA-era wall coated with stucco located along Small Avenue frontage
98	1	NE	Typical of WPA-era exposed limestone wall located along Small Avenue frontage
99	1	N	Gate 2 (Arroyo Avenue) next to WPA-era exposed limestone wall
100	1	S	Gate 2 (Arroyo Avenue) next to WPA-era exposed limestone wall
101	1	S	Horsemen's Gate 6 left side (Small Ave)
102	1	SW	Horsemen's Gate 6 right side (Small Ave)
103	1	N	Horsemen's Gate 6 interior
104	1	SW	Gate 7 and typical of block wall (Small Ave)
105	1	N	Gate 7

Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

Photo Locations Sheet





Property Name Colorado State Fairgrounds

**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**

Northwest Pueblo and Southwest Pueblo Quadrangle, Colorado  
7.5 Minute Series

