



## MEMORANDUM

**Boulder Library Commission/Landmarks Board Joint Meeting  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**TO:** The Boulder Library Commission & Landmarks Board  
**FROM:** David Farnan, Library/Arts Director  
James Hewat, Senior Historic Preservation Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Discussion of Results of the historic resource re-survey of the North Wing of the Boulder Public Library.

### **I. PURPOSE**

To provide the Library Commission and Landmarks Board the opportunity to discuss the results of the historic resource survey of the North Wing of the Boulder Public Library. No action of the Library Commission or Landmarks Board is being requested at this time.

### **II. QUESTIONS**

#### **A. Re-survey of the north wing of the Boulder Public Library:**

Does the Planning Commission/Landmarks Board have questions or comments on:

1. The information included in the re-survey?
2. The recommendations of the re-survey?
3. Other questions?

#### **B. Boulder Public Library's Master Planning Process:**

1. The November 17<sup>th</sup> Library Commission talking points?
2. Other questions?

#### **C. Civic Area West Bookend Planning Process**

1. The West Bookend Planning Process?
2. Other questions?

### **III. HISTORIC SURVEY OF THE NORTH WING OF THE BOULDER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

#### **Background:**

Historic and architectural surveys and historic contexts are the foundation for identifying, understanding, and preserving cultural and historic resources. Surveys inform a community about the historic resources it has and why they may be important. Since Boulder implemented a survey program in 1977, a total of 16 survey projects have been completed, resulting in the documentation of nearly all of the city's historic buildings built prior to the 1960s. Boulder is recognized as having one of the most comprehensive historic building survey records in the state, but updating historic survey information in the city remains a priority to ensure information is accurate and up to date.

#### **North Wing of the Boulder Public Library**

A historic building inventory form was completed for the north Wing of the Boulder Public Library in 1995 (see Attachment A) which found the 1961 Modernist building, designed by local architect James Hunter, to be eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In the spring of 2016 the Civic Area and Historic Preservation staff contracted with Katherine Corbett to re-survey the building as the initial survey was cursory in nature and over twenty years had elapsed since it was completed.

Corbett's resurvey of the North Wing (see Attachment B), provides considerable documentary information about the history of the library, including the choice for its location, its architectural features, its 1961 construction, alterations, including additions by Gaston & Associates in 1974. The survey recommends that the 1961 North Wing of the library is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A (association with events that have made a contribution to broad patterns of history) & criterion C (as a characteristic type and period of architecture associated with renowned local architect James Hunter). Corbett also recommends that the 1974 addition by Gaston and Associates is eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A & C (per criterion G for buildings less than 50 years in age). The survey does not find the 1992 South Wing, designed by local architects Midyette & Seiroe Associates, to be eligible for listing in the National Register.

### **IV. THE CIVIC AREA PLANNING PROCESS**

In the next few days, the Civic Area Phase I construction of the park implementation will begin and continue through 2017. Phase I improvements will only occur west of Broadway. Improvements for the park east of Broadway will be incorporated into the East Bookend planning, which will occur over the next 12 to 16 months. Current staff

work focuses on assembling and evaluating the many prior planning and analytical studies pertinent to the East Bookend, and assembling them into a cohesive “Opportunities and Constraints Report.” This report (anticipated to be completed in late 2016) will be used as a tool for additional planning and community engagement efforts, which will ultimately produce a recommended building program, conceptual site design and urban design guidelines. These recommendations will be presented to council for consideration in late 2017. Through a similar process, more focused planning related to the West Bookend will commence upon completion of the Library Master Plan update and the Human Services Strategy at the end of 2017/ beginning of 2018.

## **V. THE BOULDER PUBLIC LIBRARY’S MASTER PLANNING PROCESS**

The Boulder Public Library is in the early stages of a master planning process (see Attachment C), intended to provide a firm foundation for the library’s continuing evolution to meet community needs. We are conducting broad community outreach, using “People, Place and Platform” as the organizing context. To develop an effective master plan, we need to understand community needs and aspirations for library programs and services; map them to the “3Ps” to identify delivery models; and establish priorities in the master plan.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Attachment A:** 1995 Historic Building Inventory form for the North Wing of the Boulder Public Library
- Attachment B:** 2016 Historic Building Architectural Inventory Form for the North Wing of the Boulder Public Library
- Attachment C:** Library Commission Talking Points for November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Joint Meeting
- Attachment D:** September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Memo to the Planning Commission about the Resurvey the North Wing
- Attachment E:** 2011 Federal Emergency Management Agency Press Release addressing historically designated buildings

# Attachment A: 1995 Historic Building Inventory form for the North Wing of the Boulder Public Library

COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
1300 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80203  
HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORD

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

PROJECT NAME: Boulder Survey of Historic Places-Scattered Resources, 1995		COUNTY: Boulder	CITY: Boulder	STATE ID NO.: SBL6065
		TEMPORARY NO.: N/A		
CURRENT BUILDING NAME: Boulder Public Library		OWNER: CITY OF BOULDER		
ADDRESS: 1000 CANYON BL BOULDER, CO 80302		1777 BROADWAY BOULDER CO 80306		
		TOWNSHIP 1N	RANGE 71W	SECTION 25 SE 1/4 SE 1/4
HISTORIC NAME: Boulder Library & Comm. Center		U.S.G.S. QUAD NAME: Boulder		
		YEAR: 1966 (PR1979) X 7.5' 15'		
DISTRICT NAME:		BLOCK: ADDITION: N/A	LOT(S): YR. OF ADDITION: N/A	
FILM ROLL NO.: 95B-39 BY: T.H. Simmons	NEGATIVE NO.: 19	LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: Boulder City Plng.	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ESTIMATE: ACTUAL: 1961	
ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH HERE		SOURCE: Library		
		USE: PRESENT: Library		
		HISTORIC: Library		
		CONDITION: X EXCELLENT FAIR GOOD DETERIORATING		
		EXTENT OF ALTERATIONS: MINOR MODERATE X MAJOR		
		DESCRIBE: Large additions in 1974 and 1992 to the original building.		
		CONTINUED YES X NO		
STYLE: Modern (Formalist)		STORIES: 2	ORIGINAL SITE X MOVED DATE(S) OF MOVE:	
MATERIALS: Concrete, Stone, Glass, Metal		SQ. FOOTAGE: N/A	NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY	
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: Facing the Boulder Municipal Building across the Civic Center Mall, the Boulder Public Library's original 1961 section is a two-story building with flat roof with concrete coping. The upper story of the building is set back from the projecting entrance of the first story which displays walls of CU style sandstone and a glazed facade. Reinforced tapered piers atop bases of CU style stone support concrete overhangs along the facade. Screens to filter light extend between the piers enclosing courtyards. A metal and glazed hood projects outward above the central glazed automatic doors. Original building bordered by Boulder Creek and a parking lot off of Canyon Boulevard. A bridge over Boulder Creek connects the building with major newer additions on the north. CONTINUED? YES X NO		INDIVIDUAL: YES X NO		
		CONTRIBUTING TO DISTRICT: YES NO		
		LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION: No		
		NAME: DATE:		
ADDITIONAL PAGES: YES X NO		ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS? YES X NO		
		TYPE:		
		IF INVENTORIED, LIST ID NOS.:		

<b>PLAN SHAPE:</b> 	<b>ARCHITECT:</b> James M. Hunter  <b>SOURCE:</b> 20 January 1960	<b>STATE ID NO.:</b> 5BL6065  <b>ORIGINAL OWNER:</b> City of Boulder  <b>SOURCE:</b>		
	<b>BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:</b> Mike Campbell Construction Co.  <b>SOURCE:</b> Boulder Daily Camera, 11-11-61	<b>THEME(S):</b> Urban Residential Neighborhoods, 1858-Present		
<b>CONSTRUCTION HISTORY (DESCRIPTION, NAMES, DATES, ETC., RELATING TO MAJOR ALTERATIONS TO ORIGINAL STRUCTURE):</b>   <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED    YES    X    NO</p>				
<b>HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (DISCUSS IMPORTANT PERSONS AND EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS STRUCTURE):</b> The Boulder Public Library, located at the west end of Boulder's Civic Center Mall, beside Boulder Creek, replaced the city's 1907 Carnegie Library at 1125 Pine. The design of the building was based on the 18th century athenaeum, a combination library and cultural center derived from Greece and found in many town squares in New England. The building contained an auditorium that could double as an art gallery, two meeting rooms, a children's garden with an amphitheater for skits, and provision for a music room, as well as large library rooms. The architect attempted to make the building both a library and cultural center. Voters had approved a \$450,000 bond issue for the library in November 1959. General contractor for the building was Mike Campbell Construction Co. of Denver and the electrical contractor was the Holt Electric Co. of Boulder. In 1974, a concrete addition was designed by Easton & Associates. In 1987, Boulder voters approved a bond issue for construction of a 53,000 square foot addition to be designed by the Boulder architectural firm of Midyette/Seieroe & Associates in conjunction with Eugene Aubry of Sarasota, Florida. The 1992 addition linked the two older portions of the building with a new up-to-date addition in a \$15 million project. The 1961 portion was renovated into a 225-seat auditorium and a bridge over the creek was created. <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED    YES    X    NO</p>				
<b>SIGNIFICANCE (CHECK APPROPRIATE CATEGORIES AND BRIEFLY JUSTIFY BELOW):</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER  <input type="checkbox"/> POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT PERSONS  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OR PATTERNS  <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTES TO AN HISTORIC DISTRICT </td> </tr> </table>			<b>ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER <input type="checkbox"/> POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION	<b>HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT PERSONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OR PATTERNS <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTES TO AN HISTORIC DISTRICT
<b>ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER <input type="checkbox"/> POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION	<b>HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT PERSONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OR PATTERNS <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTES TO AN HISTORIC DISTRICT			
<b>TIER EVALUATION:</b>  <b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:</b> The Boulder Public Library is significant as representative of the work of Boulder architect James M. Hunter, who also designed the Municipal Building which it faces. The building is associated with the history of libraries in Boulder, having been the successor to the city's 1907 Carnegie Library. The building is representative of the Modern (Formalist) style, as evidenced in the building's symmetry, flat roof, the colonnade motif of the tapered piers supporting the overhang along the facade, and the screens enclosing courtyards.   <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED    YES    X    NO</p>				
<b>REFERENCES (BE SPECIFIC):</b> Boulder Daily Camera, 10-16-51, 1-20-60, 7-19-61, 11-11-61; Daily Camera Focus, 3-2-80; Daily Camera files; Denver Post, 8-25-61; Denver Post, 11-7-61; Rocky Mountain News, 6-21-92.   <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED    YES    X    NO</p>				
<b>SURVEYED BY:</b> R.L. Simmons/T.H. Simmons	<b>AFFILIATION:</b> Front Range Research Associates, Inc.	<b>DATE:</b> November 1995		



Attachment B: 2016 Historic Building Architectural Inventory Form for the North Wing of the Boulder Public Library

Resource number: **5BL.6065**  
Temporary resource number: **N/A**

1

OAHP1403  
Rev. 9/98

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

## Architectural Inventory Form

Official eligibility determination  
(OAHP use only)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
 Determined Eligible- NR  
 Determined Not Eligible- NR  
 Determined Eligible- SR  
 Determined Not Eligible- SR  
 Need Data  
 Contributes to eligible NR District  
 Noncontributing to eligible NR District

### I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: **5BL.6065**
2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
3. County: **Boulder**
4. City: **Boulder**
5. Historic building name: **Boulder Public Library**
6. Current building name: **Boulder Public Library, North Wing**
7. Building address: **1001 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder, Colorado**
8. Owner name and address: **City of Boulder, PO Box 791, Boulder, CO 80306-0791**

### II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. 6th Township 1N Range 71W  
**SE ¼ of SE ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 25**
10. UTM reference: **Zone 13: 475934 mE 4429449mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Boulder**  
Year: 2013 Map scale: 7.5'  15'  Attach photo copy of appropriate map section.
12. **Blks 11 & 12 & track adjacent to Blk 11 on the west - Boulder lot & pt lot 9 Smiths addition to Boulder & vac Riverside St & 10th St & 11th St**
13. Boundary Description and Justification: **The boundary of the building for the purposes of documentation includes the building and adjacent built features, excluding the 1992 addition (south wing) to the Boulder Public Library.**

### III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan (footprint, shape): **Cross-shaped plan**
15. Dimensions in feet: Length 170 ft x Width 160 ft
16. Number of stories: **2**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Stone**

18. Roof configuration: **Flat**
19. Primary external roof material: **Unknown**
20. Special features: **N/A**
21. General architectural description: **The original 1961 Boulder Public Library, aka the North Wing, anchors the northeast end of the City of Boulder's Municipal Campus. Although it is connected to the southerly additions of the library by a bridge addition that extends across Boulder Creek, for purposes of this description it is considered separately, with the bridge and addition built in the 1974 renovation described as a piece, and the 1992 addition shown only in the attached photographs. Its orientation is approximately 15 degrees west of a NS axis, and for purposes of description the northwest elevation is north and etc.**

The North Wing is a blocky, low-slung Modern style building that contains some elements of the International Style but cannot be said to fit neatly into that category, partly now due to modifications (primarily the alteration and relocation of the main entrance). It sits between Canyon Drive on the north and Boulder Creek on the south and faces east toward the Municipal Building. Its geometry is essentially that of a carefully composed collection of squares and rectangles: Massing is organized in a cruciform plan, with a square center bay surrounded on four sides by similarly sized bays. The central and west bays carry a second story, while the entrance and north and south bays are a single story. The entry bay extends to the east and garden courtyards lie on the east sides of the ells.

Exterior wall material is generally red sandstone, with full-height glazing on the east elevation. The front of the building is lined with a row of tree-like squared concrete columns, with the entry columns rising a little higher than the others and set forward. These columns are topped with wide, tapered concrete spans that join at the top to form a long surround that extends along the east façade, turning to define the sides of the courtyards as well. The courtyards are screened with gridded aggregate concrete panel set between the columns. The exterior walls of the west bay and second story are faced in solid exposed aggregate concrete panels, with a full-height section of grid panels set into the west elevation at the rear parking lot. The main entrance of the North Wing is a fully glazed vestibule entry with automated sliding doors. Secondary entrances are set into the interior corners of the courtyards, and are curved, glazed walls with glazed doors, sheltered by projecting awnings. The roof of the building is flat, with a simple white concrete cornice topping the walls.

A 1974 bridge addition extends from the south bay over Boulder Creek to a raised rectangular addition that echoes the boxy form of the North Wing. The bridge is supported by square concrete piers and is concrete and sided with aggregate grid panels that are similar to those found on the exterior of the North Wing. The addition is also constructed of concrete, and is partially founded at ground level and, at the creek side, raised on concrete piers, which have been faced in decorative tiles. Exterior walls of the addition are glazed, concrete panel, and sandstone, with differences in material indicating differences in interior spaces. The south side of this addition connects to the 1992 addition, which is a

**large, multi-story building that now houses most of the library's events and functions. It was not recorded for this documentation (see aerial and Photo #18).**

22. Architectural style/building type: **Modern Movements**
23. Landscaping or special setting features: **The Municipal Campus is a full city block that contains several city-owned buildings set in a park-like setting bisected by Boulder Creek and the Boulder Creek Path. Adjacent features to the North Wing include a rear parking lot and loading dock area. At the front of the building, a broad paved area lies at the front façade of the building, and a public parking lot and lawn area reach to the northeast toward the Municipal Building. Sidewalks and walkways, including and especially the Boulder Creek Path, lace the area around the building. Boulder Creek runs to the south of the North Wing and under the 1974 bridge addition, providing natural beauty that provides a clear counterpoint and compliment to the strong, simple geometry of the North Wing and the 1974 Addition. Surrounding the North Wing more closely are many mature trees of a wide variety, shrubs and lawn. The courtyards contain gardens: The south courtyard contains a Japanese-influenced garden, with junipers, benches, and rock-lined walkways. The north courtyard contains a vegetable garden, with trough beds and a spiral-masonry herb bed.**
24. Associated buildings, features, or objects: **A concrete ADA ramp with sandstone sidewalls and iron handrails is located on the north side of the building at the sidewalk. It accesses the side door of the north courtyard. Although the Municipal Campus contains many other civic buildings, the one that sits in close conversation with the North Wing is the Municipal Building, which is a similar, Modern-style building likewise faced in Lyons formation sandstone and also designed by the same architect.**

#### IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of Construction: **1961** Estimate:  Actual:   
Source of information: **"James M. Hunter, Colorado Architects Biographical Sketch" Produced by the OAHF and History Colorado**
26. Architect: **James M. Hunter**  
Source of information: **James Hunter, Colorado Architects Biographical Collection, OAHF**
27. Builder/Contractor: **Mike Campbell Construction**  
Source of information: **<https://libraryarchitecture.wikispaces.com/Boulder+Public+Library+-+1961+Construction>**
28. Original owner: **City of Boulder**  
Source of information: **Boulder County Assessor Records**
29. Construction history (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions):  
**The North Wing was constructed in 1961. In 1974, an addition and renovation included the construction of a bridge addition over Boulder Creek and a large, concrete addition. Research did not reveal major alterations on the North Wing, although the Children's Courtyard, which once sat in the southwest**

corner of the building's exterior, was removed. In 1992, the construction of the new south wing of the library also included major alterations to the North Wing, including the relocation of the entrance to the center of the east elevation from the interior of the north courtyard, reconfiguration of the courtyard entrances, and screening of the north courtyard's east side. Additionally, the interior remodel was extensive and complete. Today, little visual evidence remains of the original interior, although one staircase is still in place.

30. Original location  Moved  Date of move(s):

#### V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Education: Library**

32. Intermediate use(s): **Education: Library**

33. Current use(s): **Education: Library**

34. Site type(s): **Public Library in park setting**

35. Historical background: In the post-World War II period, Boulder saw a significant rise in population, largely due to the growth of the energy and defense industry in the region and improvements in infrastructure, like the Denver-Boulder Turnpike, which allowed for Denver workers to commute to work from Boulder. The population expanded from around 13,000 in the 1940 census to more than 37,000 in the 1960 census (Wikipedia), and all bets were on the growth to continue (which it did). With its ability to hold only about 40,000 volumes, 1906 Carnegie Library was quickly becoming inadequate. In 1959, Boulder voters approved a 450,000 bond for a new library. Architect James M. Hunter, a well-known local architect whose work included Regis College in Denver, Baseline Junior High School in Boulder, and the 1951 Municipal Building, was chosen to design the new building. Educated at the University of Illinois, whose architecture school emphasized European modernism, Hunter's talent for using local materials in the service of modern design was to come into play in the design for the new library. Choosing the site was contentious: much discussion went into putting it in Central Park, but the public wanted open space in the city, so instead it was decided that the Library would be sited to face the Municipal Building (Gralapp 2007). Hunter's vision was for more than a library; in addition, for space allowing the book collections to double in size, his plan included gallery and event space. In 1961, the 28,300 sf library was completed at a cost of \$486,437.19. The contractor was Mike Campbell Construction, of Denver. The library included a children's department, adult reading room, cataloging room, reference room, central services area, and auditorium, garage, stack area, three meeting rooms, a music room, and storage. Offices were located on the mezzanine. In addition to Library Director Claude Settlemire and Associate Director and Children's Librarian Marcelle Galapp, the staff included two librarians and 13 library technicians (Celsus 2016B).

Settlemire left the library in 1966 and Galapp took his place (she would hold the job until 2003, overseeing two more significant expansions). By 1970, Boulder's population had again almost doubled, to 66,000. The library needed to expand, and under Gralaap's leadership it was determined that the best course was to build a new Children's department and a non-print media center. The problem was keeping the

addition above water in a 100-year floodplain. In 1971, voters approved an addition to the library and the architecture firm of Gaston and Associates, along with the structural engineering firm of Johnson-Voiland-Archuleta and Associates designed the addition to span the creek, as a bridge, connecting to a concrete building on the south side of the creek. The addition added 15,000 needed square feet to the library, which could now offer space for users to sit comfortably and listen to recordings or view visual media (Celsus 2016A). More importantly, the addition would prove worthy almost 40 years later, when the Boulder Public Library was noted to have sustained no significant damage in the 100-year flood of 2013 (Library Journal, 2013).

In 1992, the large South Wing was added, and many, if not most, library services were relocated to that building.

36. Sources of information:

- “James M. Hunter, Colorado Architects Biographical Sketch” Produced by the OAHP and History Colorado
- Celsus, A Library Architecture Resource
  - 2016A. The Boulder Public Library 1974 Renovation. 2016. <https://libraryarchitecture.wikispaces.com/Boulder+Public+Library+1974+Renovation+and+New+Addition>. Accessed July 28, 2016.
  - 2016B. The Boulder Public Library – 1961 Construction. 2016. <https://libraryarchitecture.wikispaces.com/Boulder+Public+Library+-+1961+Construction>. Accessed July 28, 2016.
- “Boulder, Colorado”. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boulder,\\_Colorado#History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boulder,_Colorado#History). Accessed July 31, 2016.
- Marcelee Gralaap, oral history. Boulder Public Library, Maria Rogers Oral History Program. Interview OH 1007-V.
- Noel, Thomas J. and Dan W. Corson. 1999. *Boulder County: An Illustrated History*. Heritage Media Corp.
- “After Floods, Colorado Libraries Assess the Damage, Step in With Services” by Ian Chant. Library Journal. October 8, 2013. <http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/10/public-services/after-floods-colorado-libraries-assess-the-damage-step-in-with-services/>. Accessed July 31, 2016.

**VI. SIGNIFICANCE**

37. Local landmark designation: Yes  No  Date of designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Designating authority:

38. Applicable National Register Criteria:

- A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.
- Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G (see Manual)
- Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria
39. Area(s) of significance: **Community Planning and Development; Architecture**
40. Period of significance: **1961 to 1974 (Community Planning and Development) 1961 (Architecture);**
41. Level of significance: National  State  Local
42. Statement of significance: **The North Wing of the Boulder Public Library is significant under Criterion A, at the local level, in the area of Community Planning and Development for the important effort undertaken by the City of Boulder to accommodate the city's cultural and educational needs in the face of exploding population growth in the post-World War II period. Additionally, both the North Wing the 1974 renovation and bridge building should be included as eligible under Criterion C. The North Wing is significant at the local level in the area of Architecture as an important example of Modern architecture that conveys high artistic value and as the work of a master for its association with architect James M. Hunter. The 1974 addition is significant at the local level in the areas of architecture and engineering, for its innovative architecture that embodies distinctive design and construction methods and also possesses high artistic value. In the case of the 1974 addition, Criteria Consideration G should apply, as the addition is not yet 50 years old, but should be considered to be endangered in the event of another flood.**
43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance: **Although the North Wing has suffered impacts to its integrity of design, most severely through the relocation of the primary entrance and the redesign of the courtyard entrances, it still has a preponderance of its original design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The columns, courtyard screens, cornice, and red sandstone masonry are all still intact, the location, setting, and association have not changed, and the building's basic form easily conveys its history as post-World War II modern architecture. Additionally, the integrity of the 1974 addition still allows it to convey its historic significance as a work of modern architecture and an arresting and innovative work of structural engineering.**

**VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT**

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:  
Eligible  Not Eligible  Need Data
45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes  No   
Discuss: **With the Municipal Building, the North Wing and the 1974 Addition carry sufficient integrity and significance to be considered a potential historic district.**

Resource number: **5BL.6065**  
Temporary resource number: **N/A**

7

- If there is National Register district potential, is this building: Contributing  Noncontributing   
46. If the building is in existing National Register district, is it: Contributing  Noncontributing

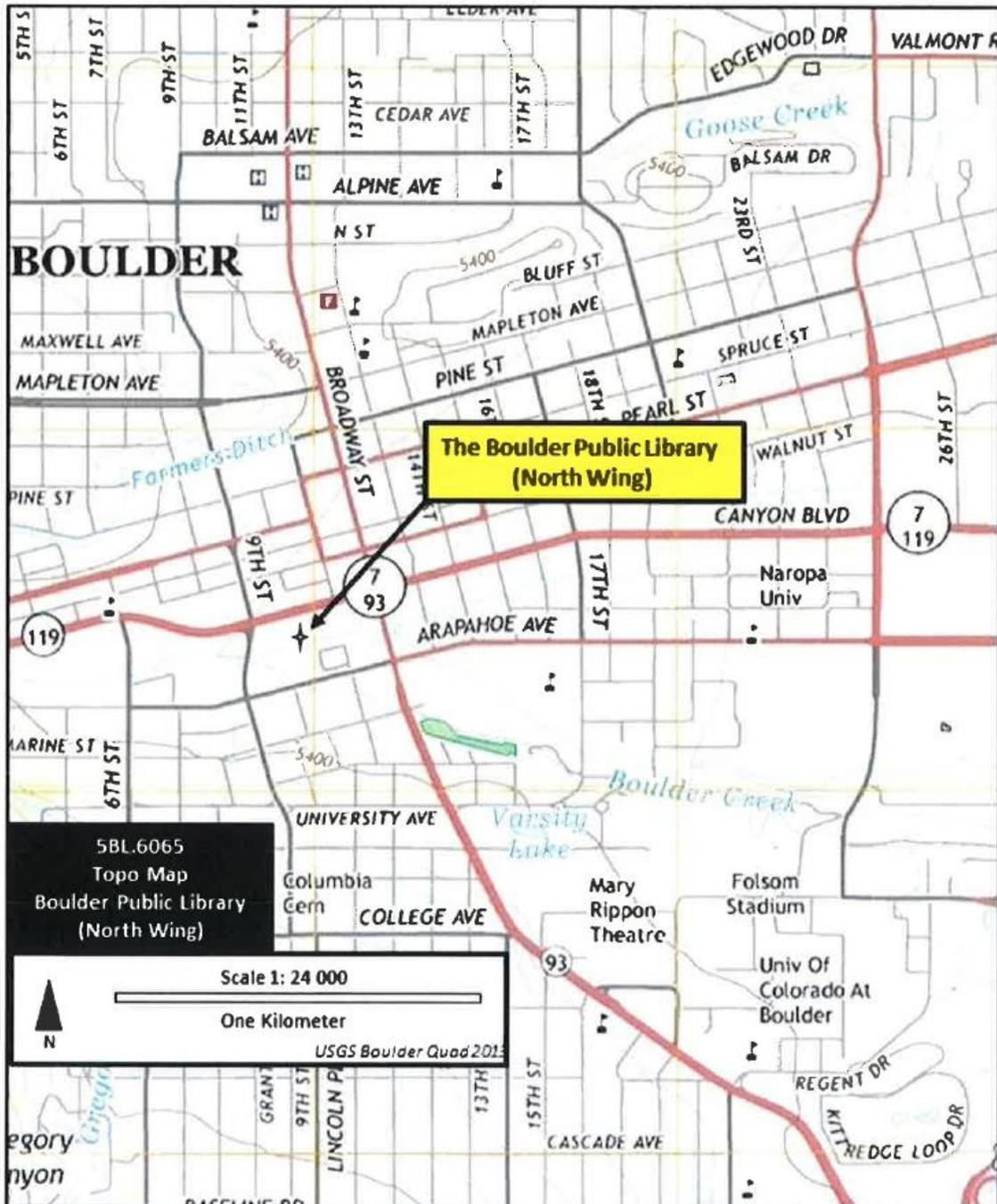
**VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION**

47. Photograph numbers: **1 through 18 (shown); 924 through 985 (on file)**  
Negatives filed at: Corbett AHS, Inc., Denver, CO  
48. Report title: **N/A**  
49. Date(s): **May 11, 2016; July 31, 2016**  
50. Recorder(s): **Kathleen Corbett**  
51. Organization: **Corbett AHS, Inc.**  
52. Address: **4659 E. Amherst Avenue**  
53. Phone number(s): **(925) 351-7417**

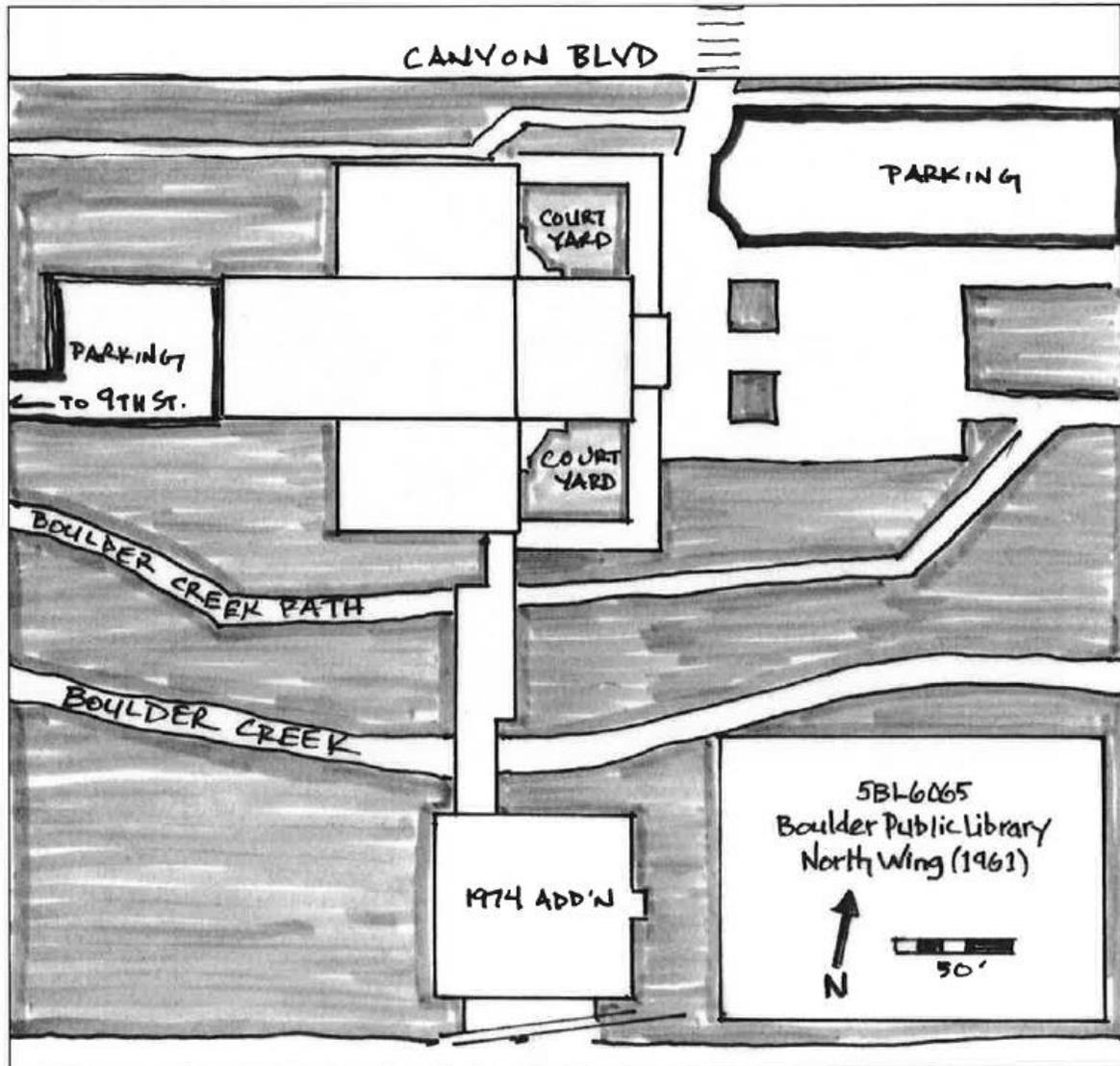
NOTE: Please include a sketch map, a photocopy of the USGS quad map indicating resource location, and photographs.

History Colorado - Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation  
1200 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203 (303) 866-3395

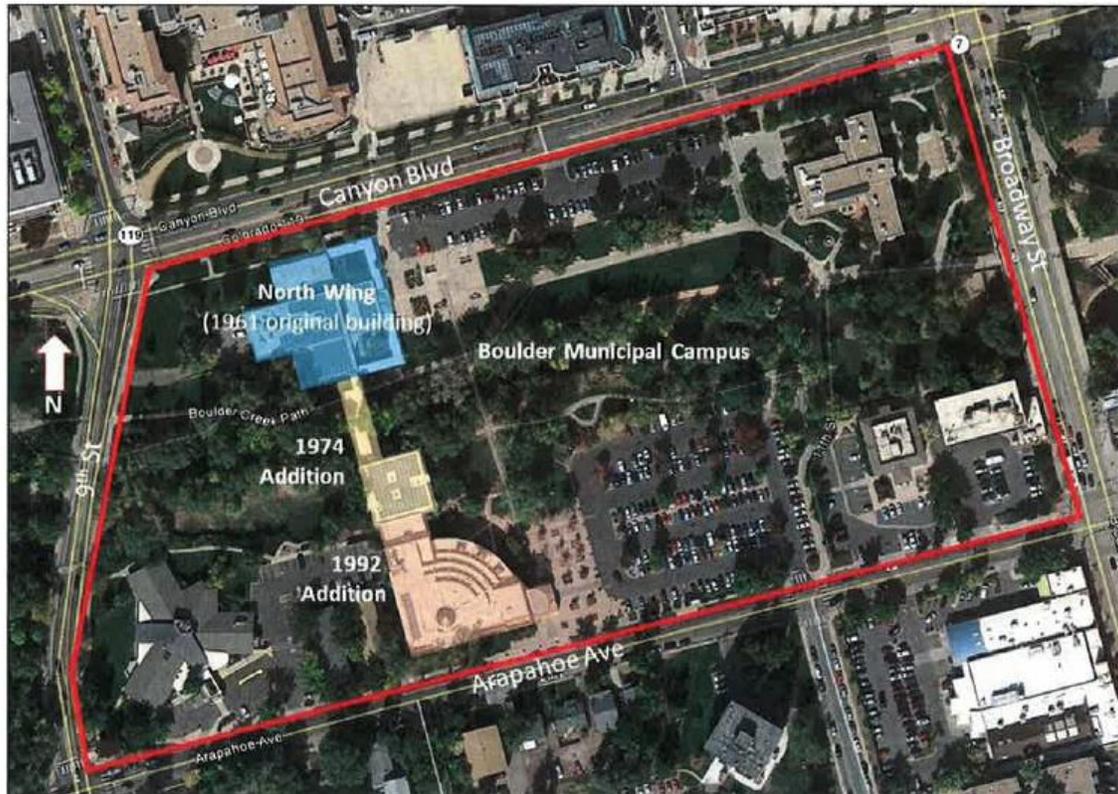
### Topo Map



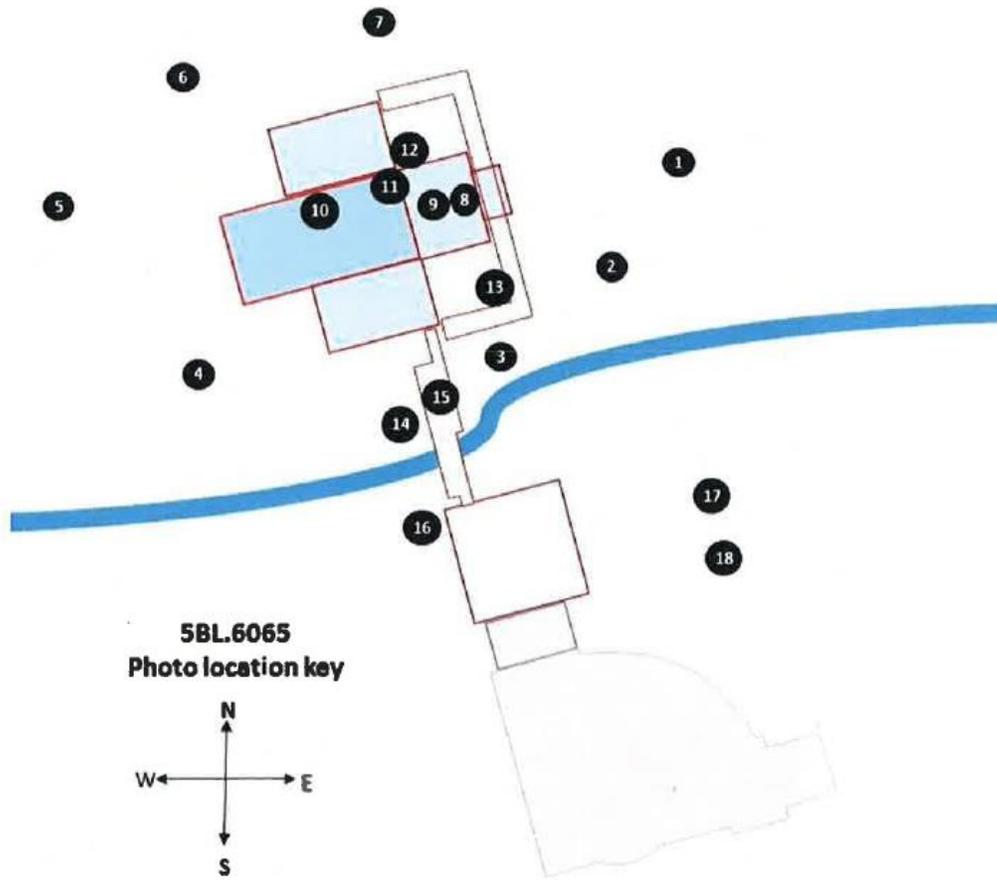
### Sketch Map



### Aerial Map

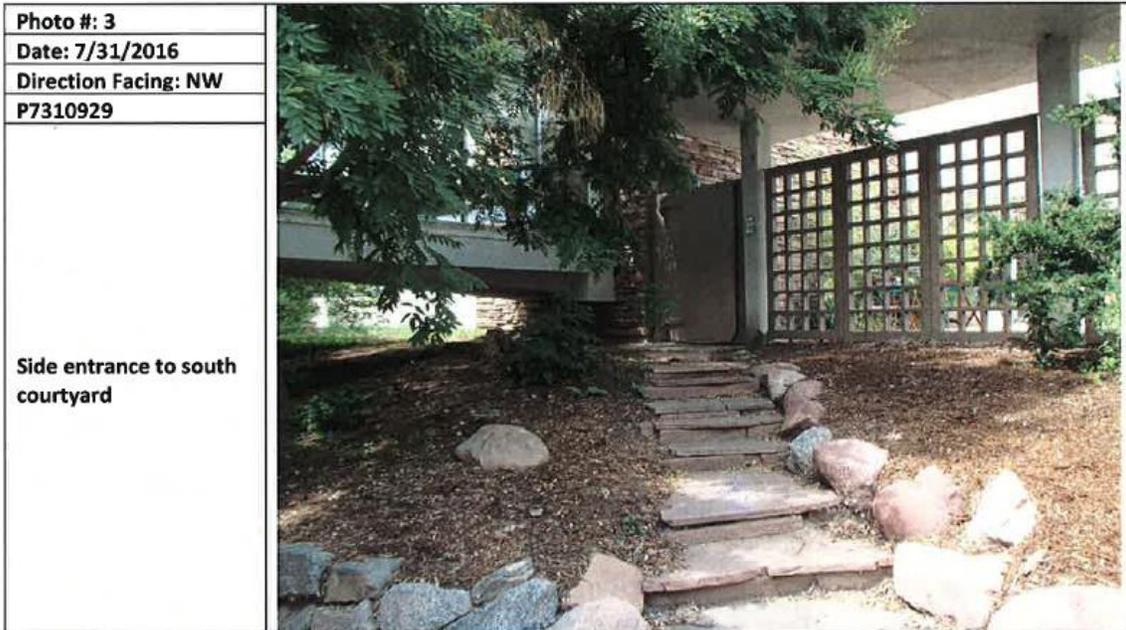


### Photograph Location Key



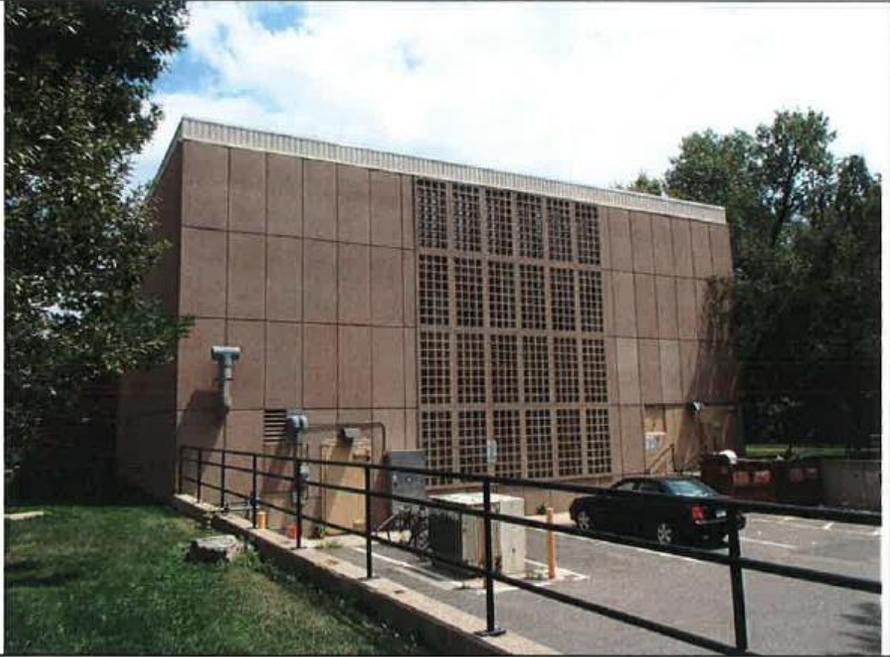
## Photographs

<p><b>Photo #: 1</b> <b>Date: 7/31/2016</b> <b>Direction Facing: WSW</b> <b>P7310924</b></p>	 A wide-angle photograph of the front facade of the North Wing building. The building is a long, low structure with a central entrance. In the foreground, there is a large paved plaza with some benches and a grassy area. Two tall flagpoles with American flags are visible on the right side. The background shows a forested hillside under a cloudy sky.
<p><b>Photo #: 2</b> <b>Date: 7/31/2016</b> <b>Direction Facing: NNW</b> <b>P7310925</b></p>	 A closer photograph of the front facade of the building, focusing on the entrance area. The building features large glass windows and a covered walkway supported by concrete columns. Several bicycles are parked in a rack in the foreground. The sky is overcast.



**Photo #: 5**  
**Date: 7/31/2016**  
**Direction Facing: ESE**  
**P7310938**

Rear elevation of the building, with rear parking lot and loading dock.



**Photo #: 6**  
**Date: 7/31/2016**  
**Direction Facing: SE**  
**P7310940**

Northwest corner of the building. Note cornice and Lyons formation sandstone masonry



**Photo #: 7**  
**Date: 7/31/2016**  
**Direction Facing: SSE**  
**P7310941**

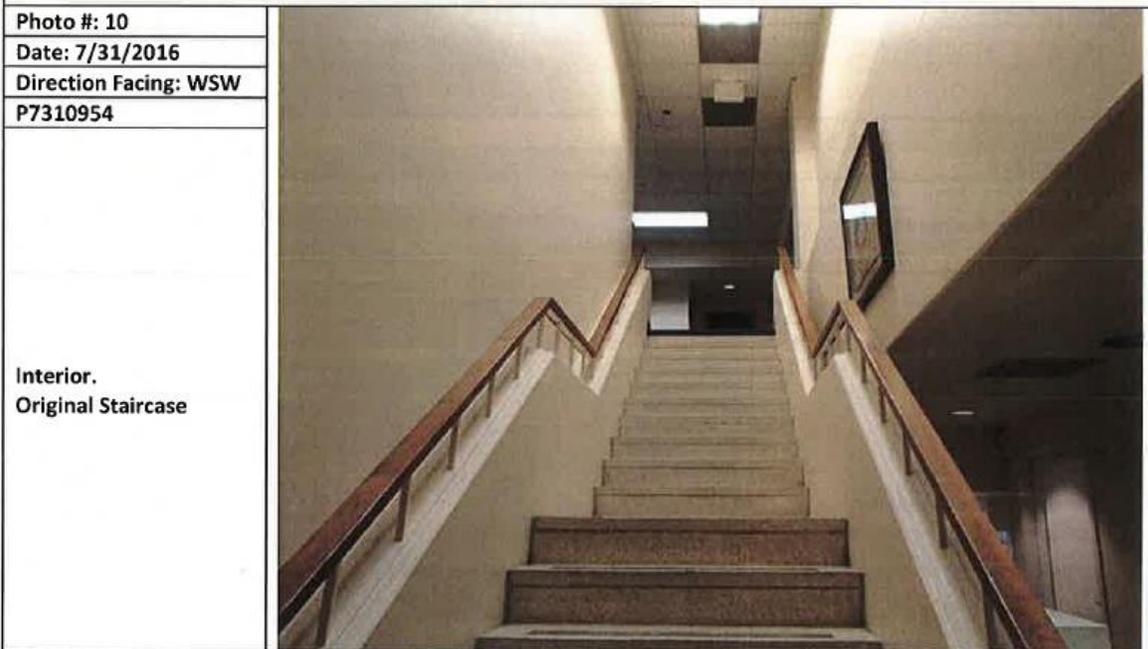
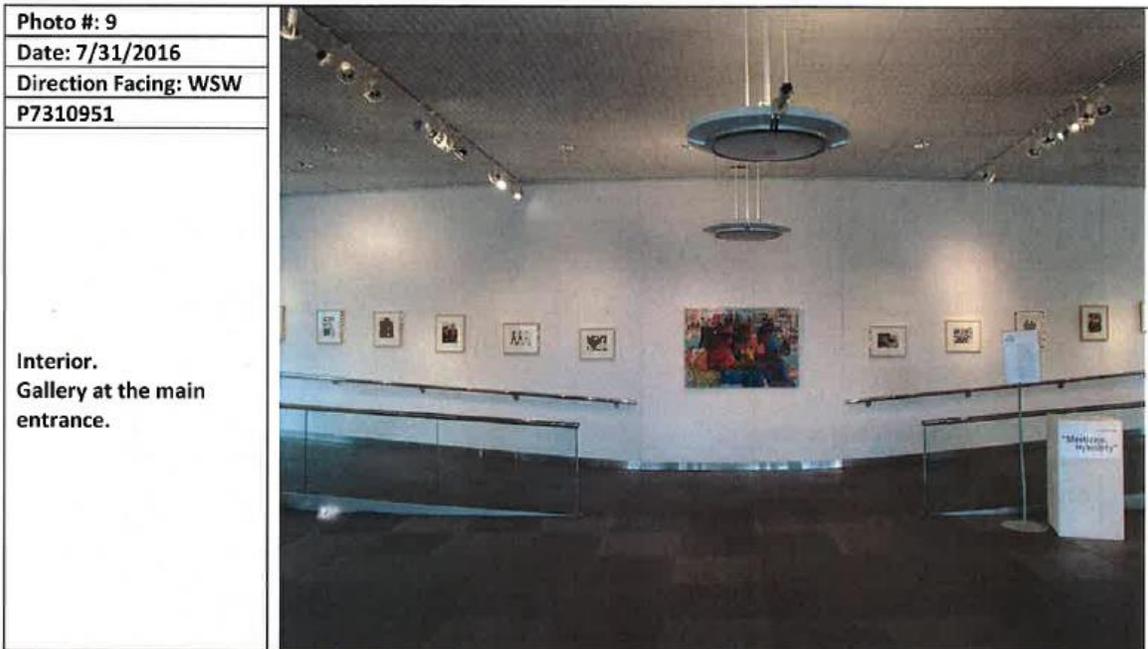
**North side of the building at the side entry to the north courtyard**



**Photo #: 8**  
**Date: 7/31/2016**  
**Direction Facing: ENE**  
**P7310949**

**Interior.**  
**Main entrance, looking out from the gallery**







**Photo #: 13**  
**Date: 4/22/2016**  
**Direction Facing: NW**  
**P4220685**

**South courtyard looking toward entrance to building.**



**Photo #: 14**  
**Date: 7/31/2016**  
**Direction Facing: SE**  
**P7310934**

**1974 bridge and raised concrete addition**



**Photo #: 15**  
**Date: 7/31/2016**  
**Direction Facing: SSE**  
**P7310931**

**View of Boulder Creek  
running under the 1974  
bridge addition**



**Photo #: 16**  
**Date: 7/31/2016**  
**Direction Facing: N**  
**P7310978**

**1974 Bridge Addition**



**Photo #: 17**  
**Date: 7/31/2016**  
**Direction Facing: WSW**  
**P7310969**

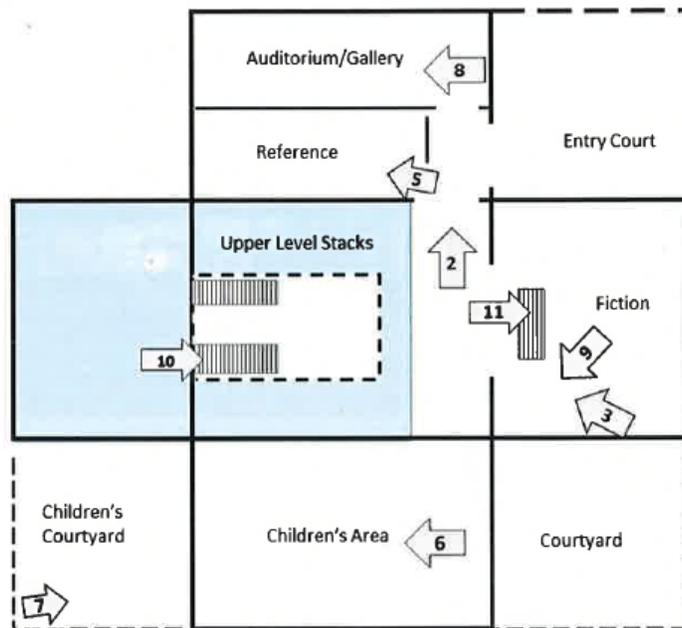
1974 Addition



**Photo #: 18**  
**Date: 7/31/2016**  
**Direction Facing: S**  
**P7310983**

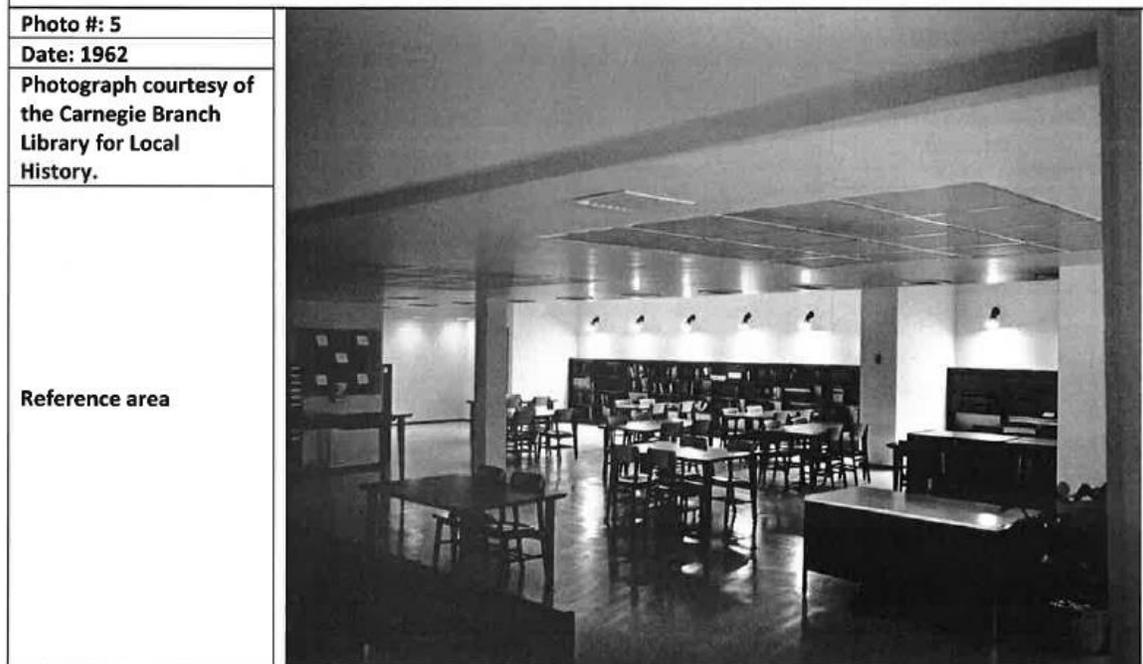
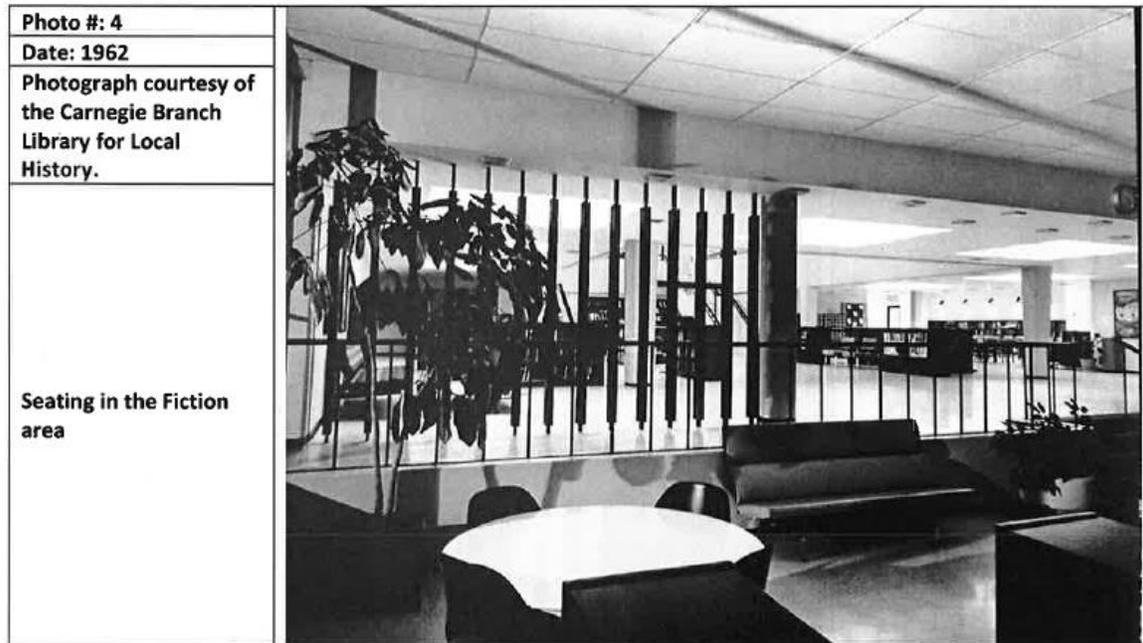


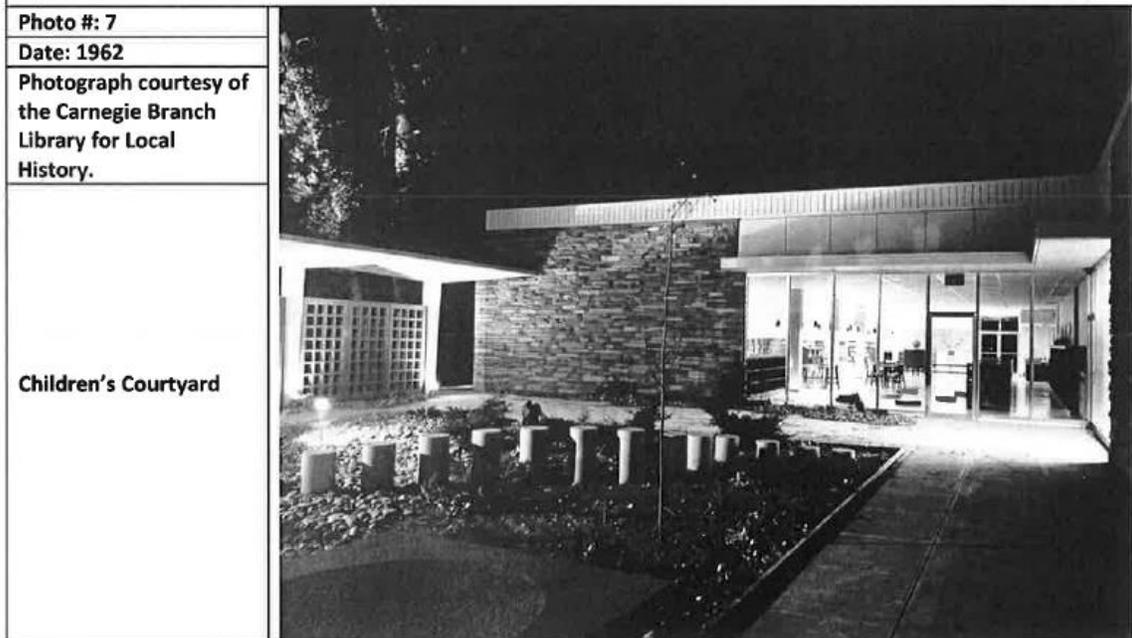
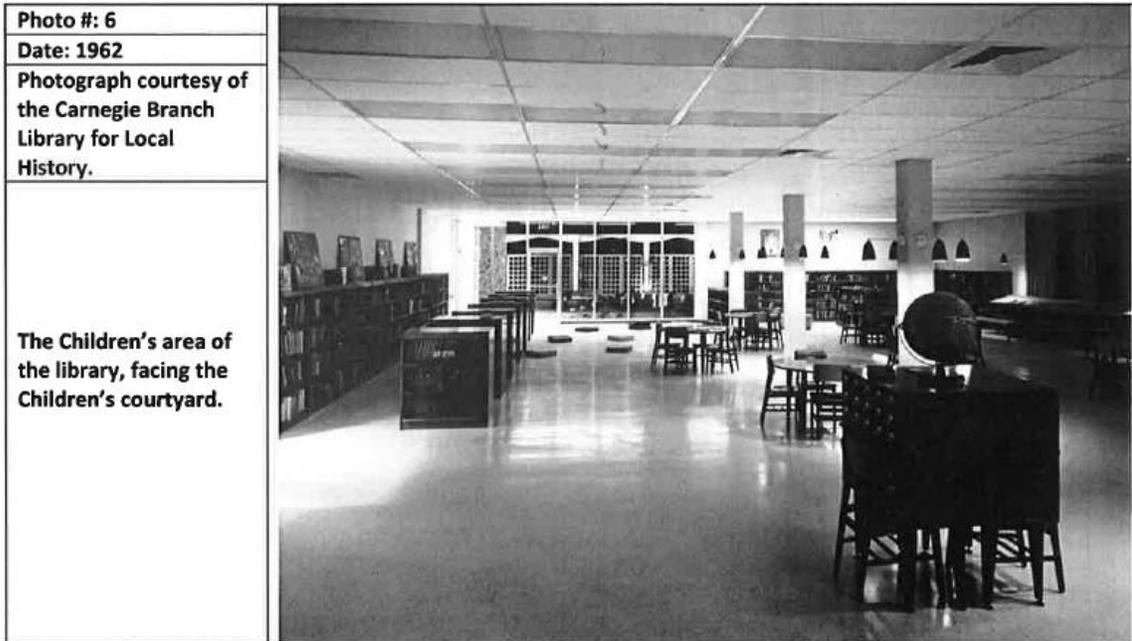
### Historic Photographs: key to locations and directions



## Historic Photographs

<b>Photo #: 1</b>	
<b>Date: 1962</b>	
<b>Photograph courtesy of the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History</b>	
<p>Front façade of the library at night.</p>	
<b>Photo #:</b>	
<b>Date: 1961</b>	
<b>Direction Facing:</b>	
<b>Photograph courtesy of the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History.</b>	
<p>Looking into the entry hall from the central area</p>	

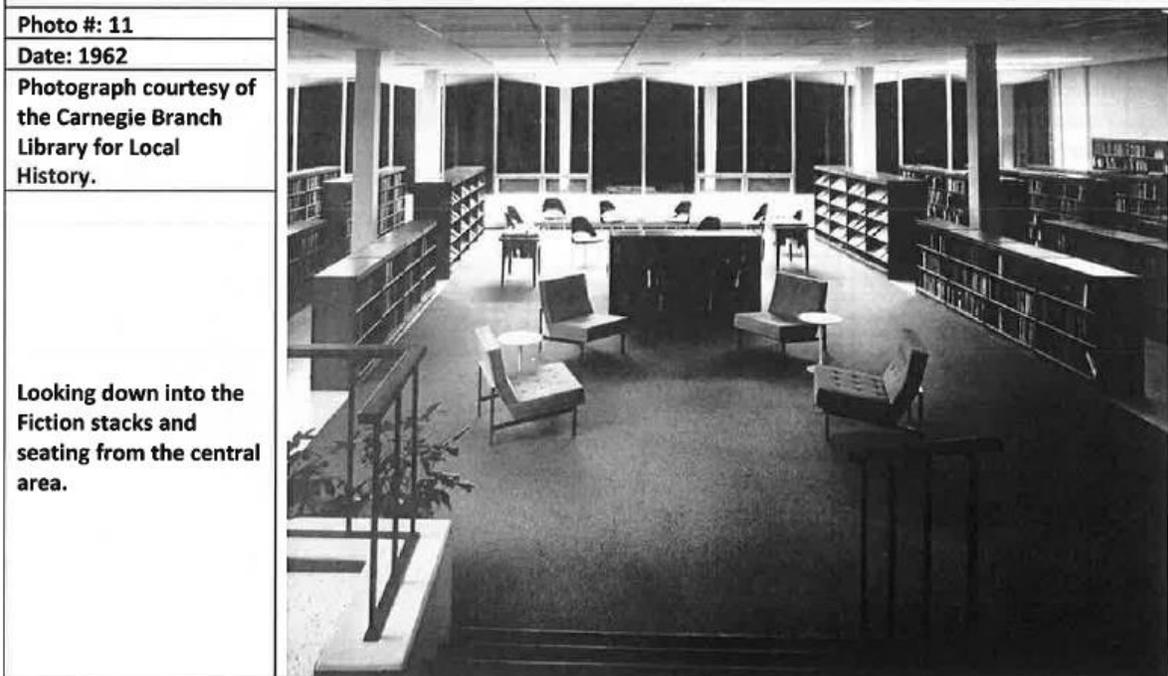








Looking down toward the open central area from the second floor stacks.



Looking down into the Fiction stacks and seating from the central area.

**Photo not mapped**  
**Date: 1974**  
**Photograph courtesy of the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History.**

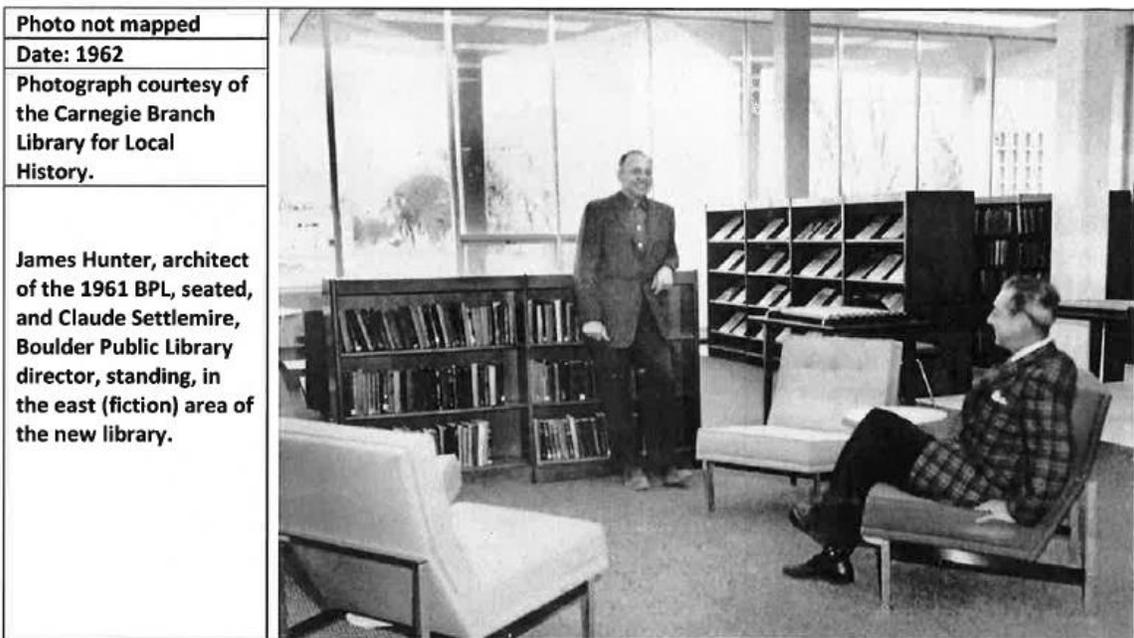
**Looking down from the upper level stacks to the reference area below.**



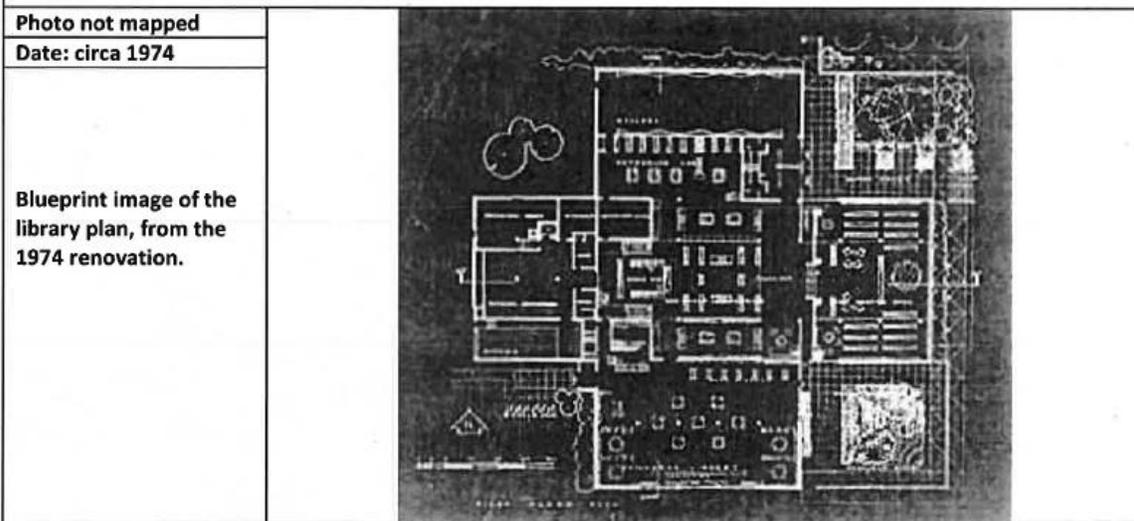
**Photo not mapped**  
**Date: 1974**  
**Photograph courtesy of the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History.**

**Children in the Children's area of the Boulder Public Library.**





James Hunter, architect of the 1961 BPL, seated, and Claude Settlemire, Boulder Public Library director, standing, in the east (fiction) area of the new library.



Blueprint image of the library plan, from the 1974 renovation.

Source: Celsus, A Library Architecture Resource: The Boulder Public Library 1974 Renovation. Accessed July 28, 2016. <https://libraryarchitecture.wikispaces.com/Boulder+Public+Library+1974+Renovation+and+New+Addition>

**Attachment C:** Library Commission Talking Points for November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Joint Meeting

**Library Commission/Landmarks Board Joint Study Session  
November 17, 2016  
Talking Points**

**Why did we ask to meet with you?**

BPL is in the early stages of a master planning process, intended to provide a firm foundation for the library's continuing evolution to meet community needs. We are conducting broad community outreach, using "People, Place and Platform" (see below) as the organizing context. To develop an effective master plan, we need to understand community needs and aspirations for library programs and services; map them to the "3Ps" to identify delivery models; and establish priorities in the master plan.

Facility planning (both capital planning and long term maintenance) is an essential element in any master planning process. The Main Library's north building will be a major focus in our master plan; it is also a key component in planning for the Civic Area as part of the "West Bookend."

There are three pieces of the Main library that are part of last summer's historical survey study, the 1970's Block (now integral to the south side functions), the Bridge, and the North Building. The north building currently houses a number of core library programs and services, while also providing platforms for a variety of community uses. (See slides 1-3 for a locational overview of current functions and programs in the Main library.)

The North Building has functional deficiencies and is in need of upgrades in critical areas including mechanical, electrical, and energy systems. When thinking about renovation and/or redevelopment, the north building and its site present a variety of factors, including:

- flood requirements (both high hazard and floodplain);
- height restrictions (compounded by the low elevation of adjacent Boulder Creek);
- bringing the building up to modern green building standards; and
- historic value.

As part of the master planning process, the Library Commission would like to identify realistic options to renovate and/or redevelop the north building and attached bridge. The historic values identified in the recent survey present some threshold questions, which we would like to discuss and ultimately work with the Landmarks Board.

**Background and Context: Welcome to Library-land!**

Libraries have always been about knowledge. As methods and processes change for learning and knowledge exchange, libraries must change with them to stay relevant and serve their communities. Libraries are no longer huge archives for books and periodicals. The community of today now uses the library as community space for informal learning, collaboration, human connection, social interactions (in the physical space and virtually), access to technology and Internet, job searching and creating. They come to the library to write a business plan, attend a storytime or learn how to use a 3D printer.

The role of the 21st-century library in the digital era is built on its three key assets: people, place and platform.

## **People**

The library as people reflects the shift away from building collections to building human capital, relationships and knowledge networks in the community. People are at the center of the library's mission to inspire and cultivate learning, advance knowledge and nurture and strengthen communities. While there are thousands of stories in the public library, the ones that matter most come with the people who use the library.

## **Place**

The physical library must undergo a transition that embraces the openness and flexibility needed to thrive in a world of constant change. Central to this flexibility is creating spaces that can adapt to the changing operational models of libraries.

## **Platform**

A great library platform is a "third place"— an interactive entity that can facilitate many people operating individually or in groups. The library platform supports the learning needs and goals of the community. To accomplish this, libraries embody the disposition of the entrepreneurial learner: seizing opportunities wherever they may exist, engaging others in the process. The library can then curate and archive the solutions created for sharing and future use. As a platform, the library promotes development in the community and society by identifying and filling gaps in community services including early-childhood education, lifelong learning, technology literacy and e-government. The library as platform makes the library a participatory enterprise.

## **Boulder's Library: "Re-inventing the Place to Be"**

This slogan was adopted by BPL staff ~ 3 years ago as Main Library's south-side renovation neared completion. And what a fabulous reinvention it has been! Re-invention highlights include:

- Library visits are up nearly 7%, topping 930,000 visitors system-wide in 2015 and on track for a million visitors in 2016. (For comparison, the combined Recreation Centers had about 465,000 visitors in 2015, and Pearl Street Mall sees about 1 million visitors annually.)
- New card holders are up 16.5%, with juvenile card holders increasing by 7%. E-book circulation is up 29%, with overall circulation of all materials up by 3.5% in 2015.
- Program and event attendance topped 100,000 participants in 2015 - a greater than 100% increase over the previous year. Children's programming reached nearly 60,000 participants, with over 12,860 of those participating in the Library's brand-new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) activities. Story Time attendance increased 30%. The 2015 Summer Reading Program has seen record-breaking participation the last two years: an 88% increase in 2015 (over 2014) and a 33% increase (over 2015) in 2016. Altogether, major community events, increased Storytimes and STEAM programming resulted in a more than 140% increase in attendance at Library programs and events in 2015. Concert and film series are among the Library's most long-running programs, attracting people of all ages to the Canyon Theater.
- The Boulder Small Business Development Center (SBDC) moved in to the Main Library in 2015. The result? Greater visibility for SBDC, with 58 workshops and 3,420 hours of free, one-on-one consulting made available to business-minded library patrons in SBDC's first year.
- BPL regularly partners with Intercambio, a non-profit dedicated to improving the lives of immigrants, to connect more people with Boulder Reads, our adult literacy program. A stepping stone to dignity, better jobs, and citizenship, in 2015 Boulder Reads experienced a 10% increase in program attendance, total number of volunteers and total number of volunteers hours donated.

- Boulder attained international prominence on the cultural scene by hosting the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) on the Main library campus in September 2015 and 2016. This American adjunct to the world's largest free literature festival in Jaipur, India brought an estimated 10,000-15,000 people to the Library for a full weekend of events - with a remarkable array of local, national, and international authors and musicians. BPL is working closely with Festival organizers to establish Boulder as JLF's American home.
- BLDG 61 (BPL's Maker Space) is an amazing community success story. Our goal is to inspire and grow learners who want to build, create, enhance and change the environment they live in. The library converted an unused storage and old facility workshop into a state of the art makerspace that is free and open to the community. In our first 8 months we have provided more than 250 programs & workshops, more than 20 outreach events and reached more than 16,000 participants. BLDG 61 has the potential to be an incubator for transforming the way our community experiences the library. Instead of coming in to simply check out books, they are coming together to learn a 21st century skill, advance a hobby, develop a new product all in collaboration with library staff and fellow community members.
- The library's fabulous success with STEAM programs and BLDG 61's "Making" is grounded in the strength of our community programming partners: CU Science Discovery, the Fringe Festival, CoderDojo, SparkFun, Play-Well Teknologies, Sphero, the Boulder Valley School District Millennium Lab, Schact Spindle Company, and more.
- BPL is garnering recognition from peers for this outstanding work: BLDG 61 staff were invited to the Capitol Hill MakerFaire in 2016, and the Colorado Association of Libraries named BPL as Colorado's "Library of the Year" for 2016.

**Attachment D:** September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Memo to the Planning Commission about the Resurvey the North Wing

**To:** Boulder Public Library Commission

**From:** David Farnan, library and arts director

**Date:** Sept. 30, 2016

**Subject:** Historic Building Survey of the North Wing of the Boulder Public Library Complete

A [Cultural Resource Re-Survey](#) (also Attachment A.) has been completed for the north wing of the Boulder Public Library. The Civic Area Project team requested the re-survey be undertaken to gain better understanding of the potential future planning options related to the west bookend of the Civic Area. Historic surveys are the foundation for identifying, understanding, and preserving a community's important cultural and historic resources.

The north wing of the library was originally surveyed in [1995](#) and found to be historically significant. The re-survey reconfirmed the historic significance and found that the building is eligible for local landmark designation and listing in the National Register Historic Places. The consultant also includes the bridge and 1974 addition for consideration.

This update is being shared for informational purposes. It is anticipated that the survey results will be discussed in a joint meeting of the Landmarks Board and the Library Commission to be held sometime in October or November. The status of the entire west bookend will be discussed in more detail once the Human Services Strategy is completed and the Library Master Plan is updated in 2017.

Commissioner Joni Teter requested that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) memo regarding historical structure repair exemptions be included (Attachment B.).

At the Library Commission meeting on Oct. 5, 2016, Commissioner Juana Gomez will brief the group regarding:

- The implications of a historic designation for the north building
- The regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over that building
- Items to investigate
- Potential paths to design options

**Question for the Commission**

What dates and times are members of the commission able to participate in a joint meeting the with the City of Boulder Landmarks Board to discuss this report?

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A. North building architectural survey results- library-Aug 2016

Attachment B. FEMA-NR\_40 Historic Structures Repair Exemptions.

**Attachment E:** 2011 Federal Emergency Management Agency Press Release  
addressing historically designated buildings

*Joint Information Center  
Burlington, VT*



## News Release

Release Date: 9/29/11  
DR-4022-VT NR 040  
FEMA News Desk: 802-951-2700  
VEM Mark Bosma: 800-347-0488

### **HISTORIC STRUCTURES EXEMPTED FROM SOME REPAIR, REBUILDING REGS**

BURLINGTON, Vt. – State and federal officials are reminding Vermonters repairing damage to their homes or businesses from Tropical Storm Irene that historic buildings get special treatment under federal law.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) gives special consideration to historic buildings, landmarks, and sites that have been affected by natural disasters like Tropical Storm Irene in order to encourage their continued preservation.

“We have heard that some owners of historic properties were told or believe that they needed to raise their buildings 5 feet above their current level,” said Federal Coordinating Officer James N. Russo. “That’s simply not true. Historic buildings are not subject to the same requirements non-historic structures are.”

These exemptions to NFIP requirements may also serve as an incentive for an owner to obtain historic designation of a structure. They include:

- Historic structures do not have to meet the floodplain management requirements of the program, such as elevating or flood-proofing the structure.
- Historic structures damaged by floods can retain their historical designation, even if they have been altered by substantial improvement or substantial damage repair as long as the repairs are consistent with the historic character of the structure.
- Historic structures can also qualify for federally subsidized flood insurance under the NFIP, even if they have been altered by substantial improvement or substantial damage repair, so long as they maintain their historic structure designation.

Although the NFIP provides relief to historic structures from having to comply with NFIP floodplain management requirements for new construction, communities and owners of historic structures should give serious consideration to mitigation measures that can reduce the impacts of flooding on historic structures located in Special Flood Hazard Areas.

Additional financial assistance from FEMA for actions to protect against future flooding damage may be available to municipal applicants complying with the National Environmental Protection Act.

Mitigation measures to minimize future flood damages should be considered when historic structures are rehabilitated or are repaired following a flood or other hazard event.

Under federal law governing the NFIP, a Historic Structure is any structure that is:

- (1) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing in the National Register;
- (2) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
- (3) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or
- (4) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs.

This definition provides communities participating in the NFIP with criteria to distinguish between “historic structures” and the other existing buildings which remain subject to NFIP floodplain management requirements.

It is important to preserve historic structures and other cultural resources, and it is also critical to ensure that these structures are protected from flood damage in the future. For mitigation recommendations and additional information, please see the “Floodplain Management Bulletin on Historic Structures” at:

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?fromSearch=fromsearch&id=3282>

*FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.*

*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585; or call 800-621-3362 if using 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS).*

*FEMA’s temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.*

*SBA disaster loan information and application forms may be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET; Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET or by sending an e-mail to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Applications can also be downloaded from [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) or completed on-line at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.*

###