COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1300 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80203

HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORD

NOT FOR FIELD USE
___ Eligible ___ Nominated
___ Det. Not Eligible ___ Certified Rehab.
Date _____

PROJECT NAME: Boulder Survey of Historic Places-Scattered Resources, 1995

COUNTY: Boulder

CITY: Boulder

STATE ID NO.: 5BL6065

TEMPORARY NO.: N/A

CURRENT BUILDING NAME: Boulder Public Library

OWNER: CITY OF BOULDER
1777 BROADWAY
BOULDER CO 80306

ADDRESS: 1000 CANYON BL
BOULDER, CO 80302

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: LOT(S):
ADDITION: N/A 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
SOURCE:
Library

ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH HERE

USE:
PRESENT:
Library

HISTORIC:
Library

CONDITION:
X EXCELLENT GOOD
FAIR 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

INDIVIDUAL: YES X NO

CONTRIBUTING TO DISTRICT:
YES NO

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

LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION: No

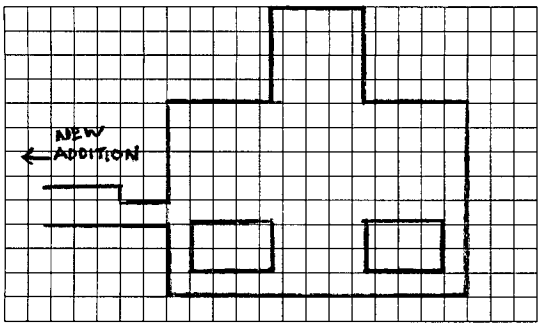
NAME:
DATE:

ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS? YES X NO
TYPE:

IF INVENTORIED, LIST ID NOS.:

ADDITIONAL PAGES: YES X NO

PLAN SHAPE:



ARCHITECT:
James M. Hunter

SOURCE:
20 January 1960

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
Mike Campbell Construction Co.

SOURCE:
Boulder Daily Camera, 11-11-61

STATE ID NO.: 5BL6065

ORIGINAL OWNER:
City of Boulder

SOURCE:

THEME(S):
Urban Residential Neighborhoods, 1858-Present

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY (DESCRIPTION, NAMES, DATES, ETC., RELATING TO MAJOR ALTERATIONS TO ORIGINAL STRUCTURE):

CONTINUED YES X NO

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (DISCUSS IMPORTANT PERSONS AND EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS STRUCTURE):
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.

CONTINUED YES X NO

SIGNIFICANCE (CHECK APPROPRIATE CATEGORIES AND BRIEFLY JUSTIFY BELOW):

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:
- X REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER
- POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES
- X REPRESENTS A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:
- ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT PERSONS
- X ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OR PATTERNS
- CONTRIBUTES TO AN HISTORIC DISTRICT

TIER EVALUATION:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:
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.

CONTINUED YES X NO

REFERENCES (BE SPECIFIC):
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.

CONTINUED YES X NO

SURVEYED BY: R.L. Simmons/T.H. Simmons | AFFILIATION: Front Range Research Associates, Inc. | DATE: November 1995

BOOK RETURN