

AURORA LANDMARK PROPERTIES

NOMINATION FORM

City of Aurora
Historic Preservation Commission



SECTION A: SITE INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION

1. *Name of Nominated Site*

Historic Name: St Therese School

Current Name: St Therese School

2. *Address of Property*

Street Address: 1200 Kenton St

County: Arapahoe Zip Code 80010

3. *Geographic Description*

P.M.: 6 Township: 45 Range: 67W Quad Map: Fitzsimons Year: 1964/95

SE ¼ of NW ¼ of NE ¼ of SE ¼ of Section: 2 Map scale: 7.5' X

UTM: Zone 1 3: 5 1 2 0 8 2 mE 4 3 9 9 4 1 4 mN

Lot(s): 25-28 Block: 128 Addition: Boston Heights-2nd Year of Addition: 1951

Boundary Description: Kenton St. (W), Kingston St. (E), 13th Ave. (N), 12th Ave. (S)

4. *Site Description*

The building sits on the north-east corner of 12th Avenue and Kenton Street. It is a two-story brick structure, with a garden level basement. The school includes 15 classrooms, a gymnasium, library, and cafeteria.

5. *Legislative Information*

Aurora Ward #: 1 Colorado House District: 42 Colorado Senate District: 29

6. *Site Owner*

Current: Name: Archdiocese of Denver

Address: 1300 S. Steele St Phone: (303) 722-4687

City: Denver State: CO Zip: 80210-2599

(If the property has multiple owners, please give the names and addresses of all owners on a continuation sheet)

Historic: Name: Archdiocese of Denver

Source of information: Archdiocese historical records

7. *Site Classification*

building(s) district site structure object area

8. *Site Condition*

excellent good fair deteriorated ruins

9. *Site Location*

original location moved (date of move _____)

10. *Site Use*

Historic: Elementary School Current: K-8 School

Nomination Site Name: St. Therese School

SECTION B: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

11. *Year(s) of Construction*

Original Structure: 1955-1956 Additions or Alternations: 1959 and 1969

Source of information: Archdiocese historical records

Alterations:

- **Closely matching addition built 1959-1960.**
- **Separate gym building constructed c. 1970 attached with hallway to main school building.**
- **Windows replaced in 2006 with like materials-style closely matched originals.**

12. *Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist, or Designer*

Name: Roland or Howard Johnson Location: Aurora, Colorado

Source of information Andrew Swanson Graduate Thesis/Aurora Star Newspaper

13. *Architectural Style/Engineering Type*

Type/Style: International/Moderne

Source of information: What Style is It?, The Buildings of Main Street

SECTION C: SITE SIGNIFICANCE

14. *Significance of Property*

Nomination Criteria:

1. The Property (District) Exemplifies or Reflects the Broad Cultural, Political, Economic, or Social History of the Nation, State, or Community.

2. The Property (District) Is Identified With a Historic Person or Historic Group Significant To National, State, or Local History.

3. The Property (District) Embodies Distinguishing Characteristics of an Architectural Type Inherently Valuable to the Study of a Period, Style, Method of Construction, or Indigenous Materials or Craftsmanship.

4. The Property (District) Is Representative as the Work of a Master Builder or Architect.

5. The Property (District) Contains the Possibility of Important Archaeological Discoveries in Prehistory or History.

6. The District Consists of a Definite Area That, Due To Its Unique Location or Singular Characteristics, Represents Established and Familiar Visual Features of the Neighborhood, Community, or City

15. *Significance Statement*

St. Therese, Aurora's first Roman Catholic parish was established in 1926 and named in honor of St Therese of Lisieux (the "little flower") who had been canonized in 1925. The church was established in a frame building which had previously been a novitiate of the Sisters of Mercy at East 14th Avenue and Dayton Street. From 1915-1922, the nuns at that site offered daily Mass for local residents. After the novitiate closed, the site was purchased for \$15,000 in order to establish the parish.

World War II and the rapid expansion of the American military brought tens of thousands of troops to Aurora. Fitzsimons Army Hospital and Lowry Air Base both grew

Nomination Site Name: St. Therese School

15. *Significance Statement - continued*

tremendously during the war and Buckley Field was established to the east of Aurora. Service members from all three bases began attending St. Therese, and by 1947, the church was offering five masses on Sundays. The end of the war brought many changes as Aurora changed from a small farming town into a bustling suburb of Denver. The city experienced dramatic (and rapid) population growth—in 1940, 3,437 people called Aurora home. By 1950 that number had grown to 11,421 and by 1970 almost 75,000 lived in Aurora. To serve the growing population, the parish purchased 48 lots on Kingston St. in 1949 for a new church, hall, convent, and school. In 1951, the Church and hall were dedicated and in 1952 students began attending catechism class at the church. In 1955, plans for a school and adjacent convent were formalized, and the first phase of the school and the convent were completed and dedicated in September 1956 with the school's first students attending first through fourth grades. The class room building was expanded to its present size in 1960, and a large gymnasium was added in the late 1960's.

16. *Bibliography*

Archdiocese of Denver Historic Records.

McFadden, Carl and Leona. *Early Aurora*. Aurora: Aurora Technical Center, 1978.

Noel, Thomas J. *Colorado Catholicism and the Archdiocese of Denver, 1857-1989*. Niwot: University of Colorado Press, 1989.

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. *John K. Monroe - Colorado Architects Biographical Sketch*. Denver: Colorado Historical Society.

Poppeliers, John C., Chambers, S. Allen, Schwartz, Nancy B. *What Style Is It?* New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1983.

Swanson, Andrew Charles. *Saint Therese in Aurora*. Thesis presented to California State University, Dominguez Hills, 1999.

17. *Nomination Preparer*

Name: Brian Shaw w/ Carl Loescher Date: November 28, 2006

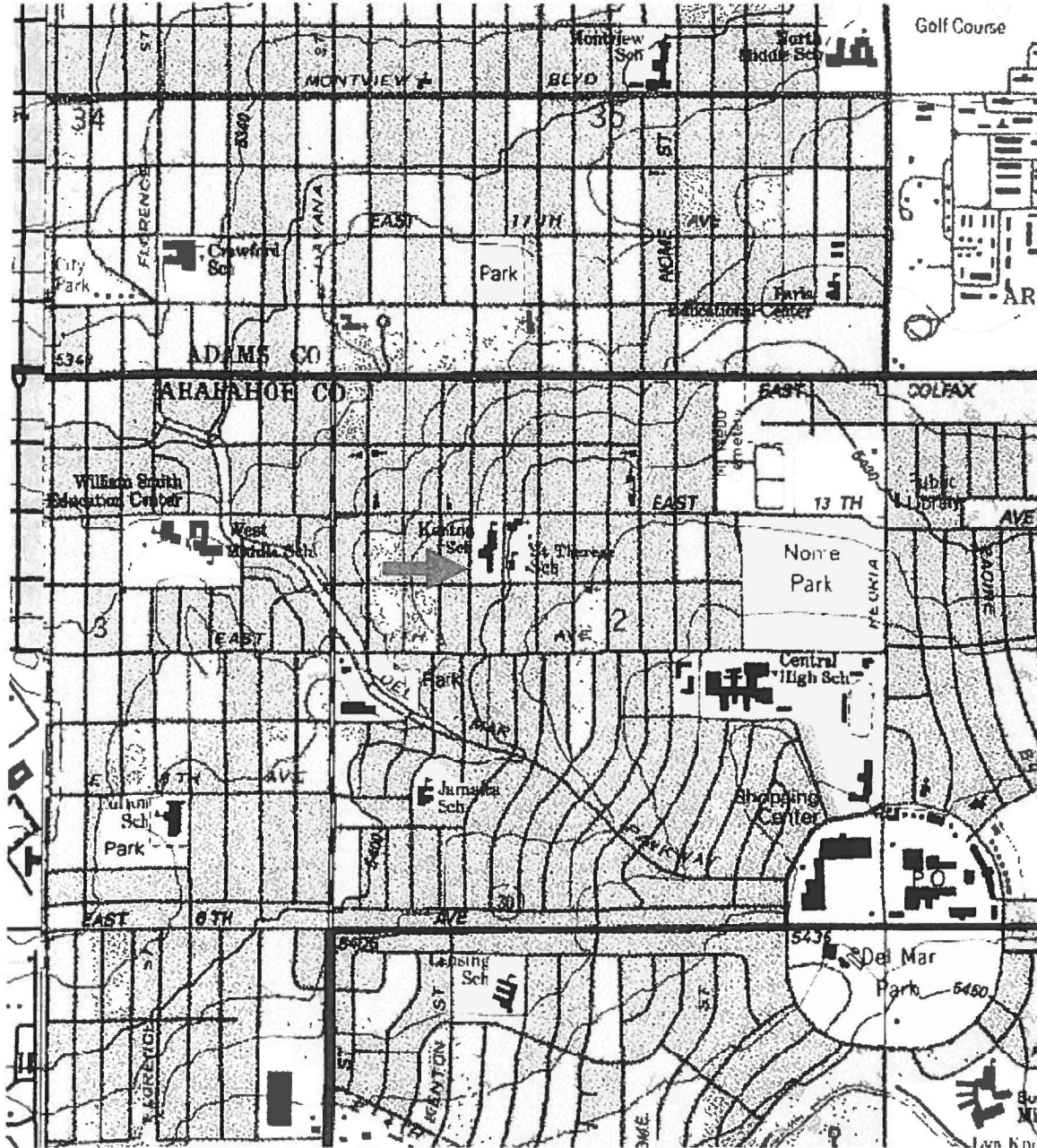
Organization: Historic Sites and Preservation Program - Aurora History Museum

Address: 15051 E. Alameda Pkwy. Phone: (303) 739-6661

City: Aurora State: CO Zip: 80012

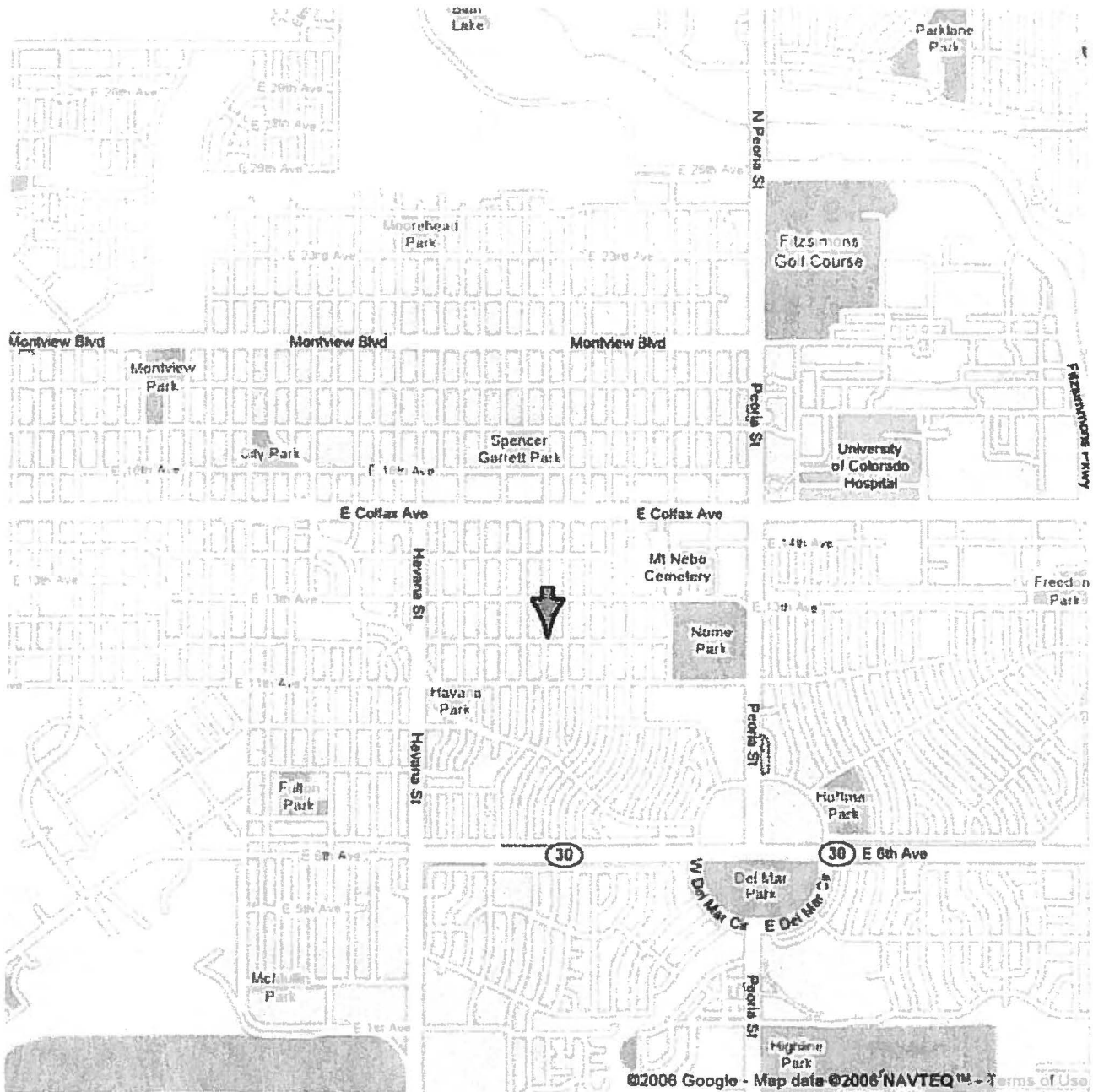
Nomination Site Name: St. Therese School

ATTACHEMENT 1: USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



Nomination Site Name: St. Therese School

ATTACHEMENT 2: AREA MAP

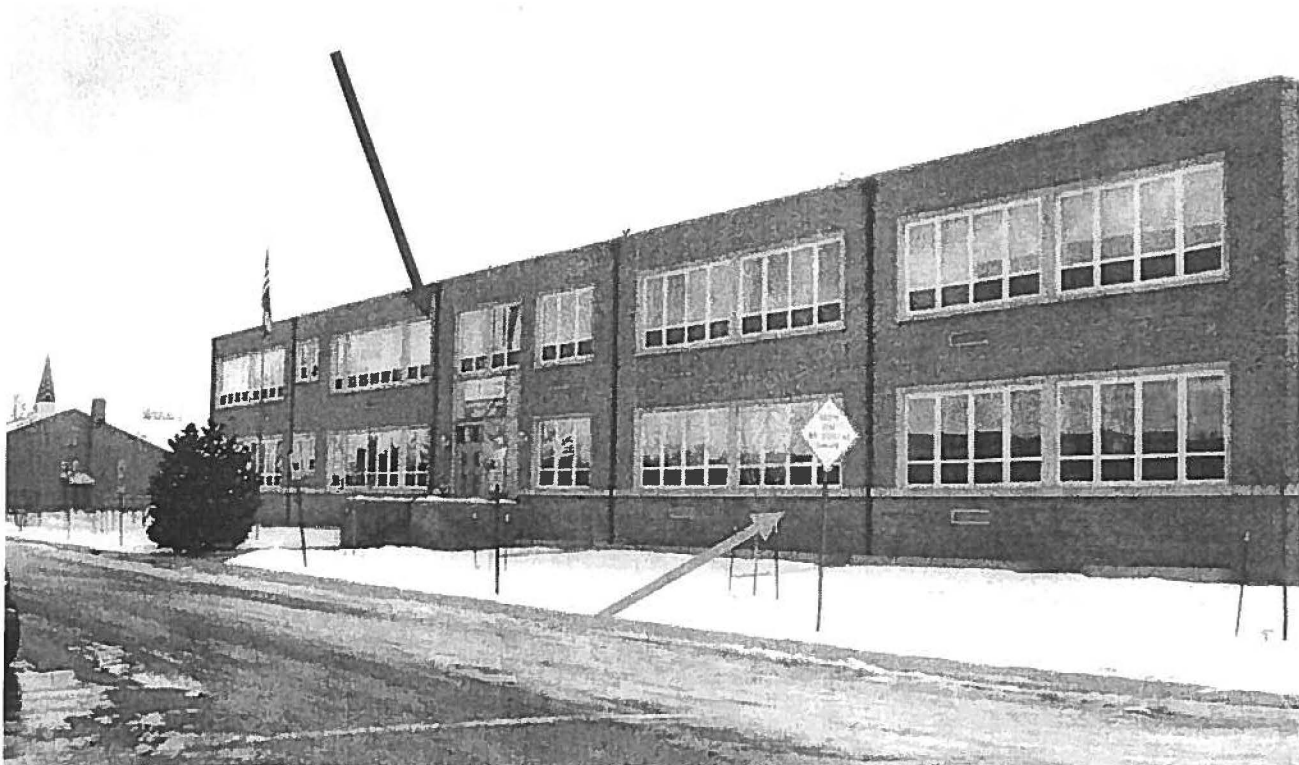


Nomination Site Name: St. Therese School

ATTACHEMENT 3: CURRENT PHOTOS (PAGE 1 OF 2)



North-eastern corner of 12th and Kenton showing southern corner of class room building and gym. Original school (completed in 1956) indicated by green arrow, gym (built c. 1970) is indicated by a green arrow.



Main façade of school viewed from western side of Kenton Street. Original 1956 school building is indicated by green arrow. School addition (completed in 1959) is indicated by red arrow.

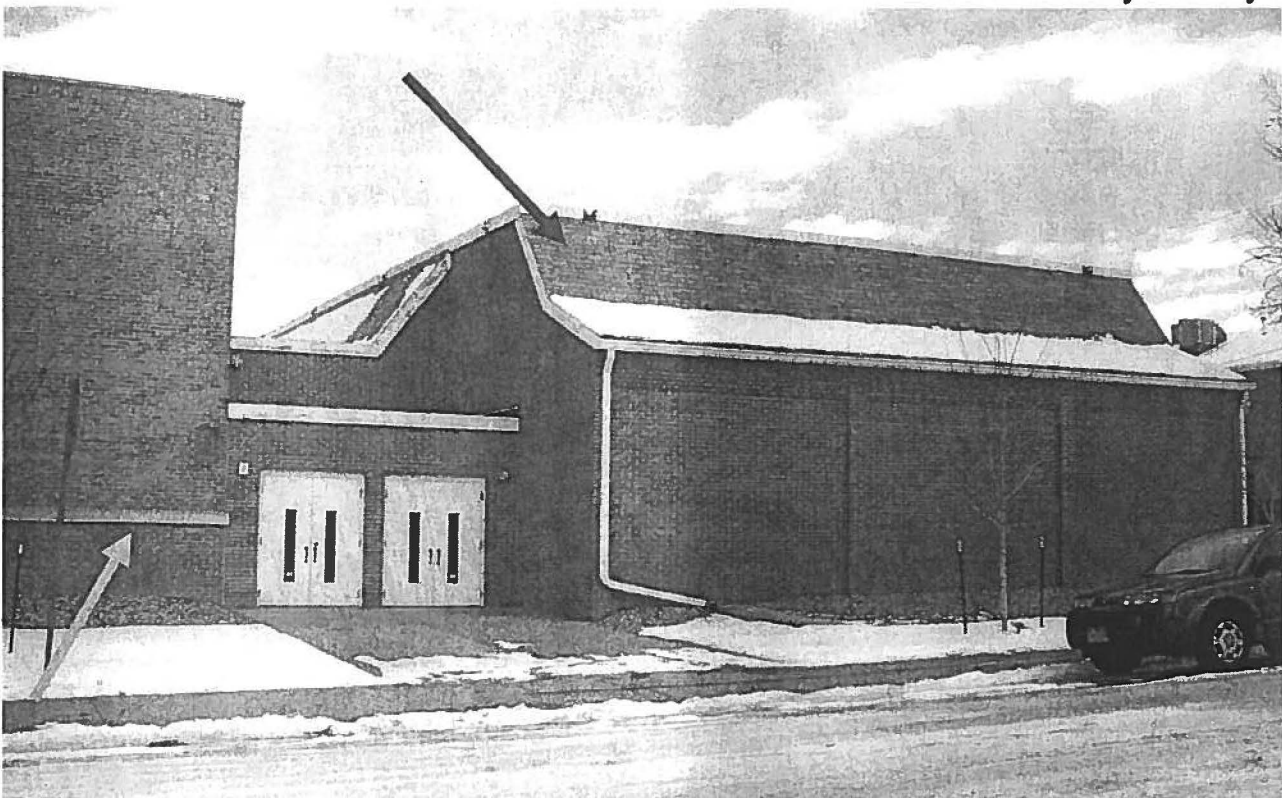
Nomination Site Name: St. Therese School

ATTACHEMENT 3: CURRENT PHOTOS (PAGE 2 OF 2)

Main entrance to school, viewed from Kenton Street. Original school building (indicated by green arrow) ended at yellow arrow. School addition is indicated by red arrow.

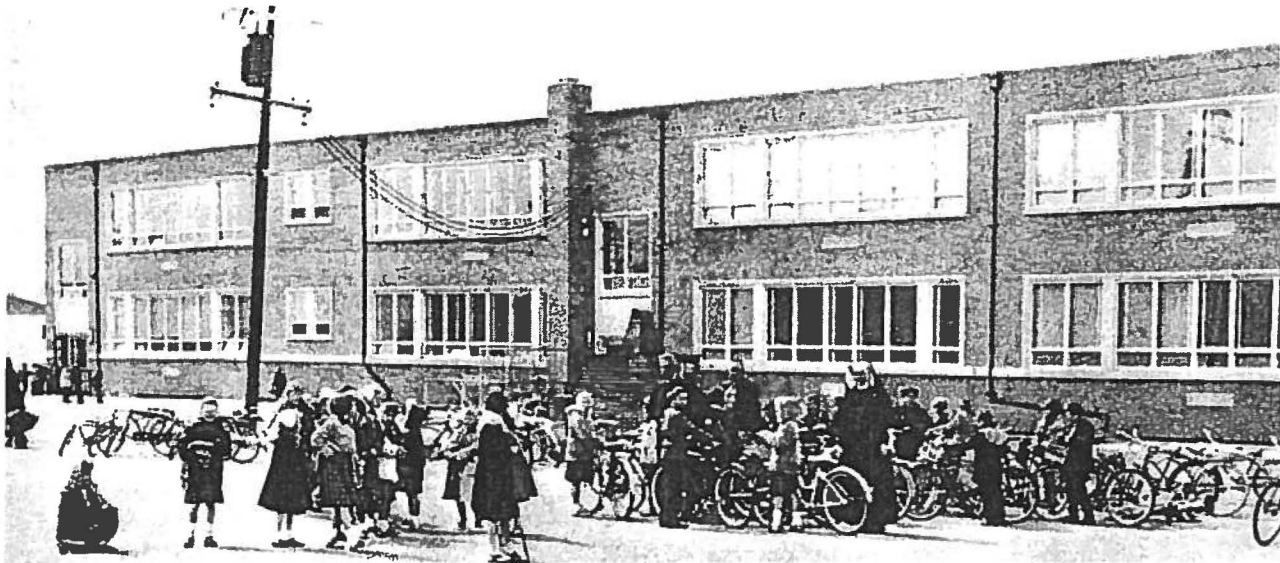


School gym as viewed from 12th Avenue. Original school building indicated by green arrow, gym indicated by red arrow. Buildings are connected by hallway.

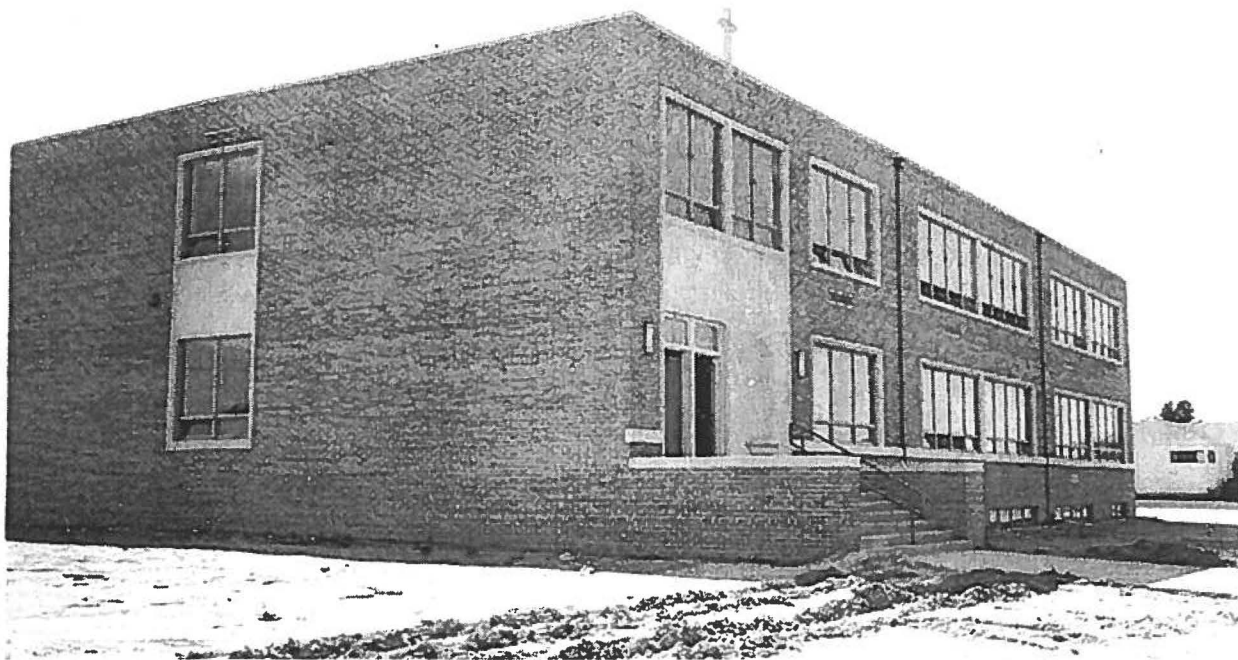


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ATTACHEMENT 4: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS



Eastern side of school building after both sections have been completed. View is from eastern edge of campus looking south, c. 1960.



First section of school, c. 1956, shortly after construction. View is from Kenton Street looking south towards 12th Avenue.

**AURORA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 5, 2006**



**Community Gallery – Aurora History Museum
15051 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO 80012**

Present: Gordon Tucker-Chair, Amy Bailey, Charyn Betka, Sheila Doll, Carl Loescher, Marie Rottler, Su Ryden, Elizabeth Watson

Excused: John Dale

Absent: Ocie Brown

Staff: Alice Lee Main, Gordon Davis and Brian Shaw

I. Call to Order

A quorum being present, Chair Gordon Tucker called the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC or Commission) meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.

II. Public Hearing- Landmark Nomination of St. Therese School

Chair Gordon Tucker recognized Father Bert Chilson of the St. Therese Parish who spoke about the important role the school has had in Aurora. St. Therese, Aurora's first Roman Catholic parish was established in 1926 at East 14th and Dayton Ave. Aurora's rapid expansion after World War II convinced the parish to purchase 48 lots on Kingston St. in 1949 for a new church, hall, convent, and school. In 1951, the Church and hall were dedicated; the next year 250 students began attending catechism class. In 1955, the plans for the school and adjacent convent were published. These two buildings were completed and dedicated in September 1956, and the first students began attending first through fourth grades.

After Father Bert spoke, several Commission members spoke about their own memories of the parish, and its importance in Aurora history. After this Mr. Tucker asked if there was any other public comment. Hearing none, he asked for a motion from the Commission.

Motion (Charyn Betka): to recommend Landmark Designation for the St. Therese School to the Aurora City Council.

2nd (Sheila Doll)

Motion Passed unanimously - the Historic Preservation Commission recommends that St. Therese School be designated as City Landmark Number 23.

Chair Gordon Tucker then asked for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing and re-convene the monthly meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission

Motion (Sheila Doll): to adjourn the Public Hearing

2nd (Marie Rottler)

Motion Passed – the Public Hearing adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

AURORA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
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Excused: John Dale

Absent: Ocie Brown

Staff: Alice Lee Main, Gordon Davis and Brian Shaw

I. Call to Order

A quorum being present, Chair Gordon Tucker called the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC or Commission) meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. The minutes of the October 3, 2006 meeting were approved as written. At this time, there was a call for public input, hearing no requests; the meeting proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

II. Public Hearing- Landmark Nomination of St. Therese School

At this point Gordon Tucker requested a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission and convene a special Public Hearing to consider the Landmark Application of the St. Therese School.

Motion (Marie Rottler) to adjourn for a public hearing.

2nd (Carl Loescher)

Motion Passed unanimously - The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned for a Public Hearing (Minutes Attached)

At 7:15 p.m., the Aurora Historic Preservation Commission reconvened.

III. Announcements and Additions to the Agenda

New Business:

Holiday Wreaths - Gordon Davis noted that the wreaths decorating the Aurora History Museum will be coming down on December 7. They have been hung in the Community Room as a silent auction event that benefits the Museum.

Ranger Motel – Gordon Tucker said he would like to discuss a potential landmark nomination of the Ranger Motel.

Colorado Preservation Inc. (CPI) Annual Conference – Gordon Tucker asked that the Commission discuss who will be attending the upcoming CPI conference.

Old Business:

Red Cross Memorial - Charyn Betka reported that she had spoken to Jill Farnham, the executive director of the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority, about the memorial. Ms. Farnham said that the memorial and building had been transferred to the University of Colorado and that they should be contacted about maintenance.

IV. Work Plan Reports

Publicity and Newsletter – Marie Rottler and Gordon Tucker will be meeting to discuss a top-down review of the newsletter and how to move forward on the next issue.

Adopt-a-Landmark Reports:

Aurora Fox Arts Center – Su Ryden reported that the Fox seems to be doing well, but asked if Historic Sites staff is notified when maintenance is done at the theater. Staff responded that they do not receive any kind of notification, but would see if Facilities could let them know when work was being done.

Building 880 – Staff reported that Front Range Research Associates has submitted the National Register nomination packet to the State and that the packet has been sent to Washington, DC for review. Brian Shaw passed around a copy of the nomination packet for review by the Commission. The final hearing will be held in the spring of 2007.

IV. Staff Reports

Hornbein Building and Historic Sites Maintenance – The State Historical Fund will announce grant awards in early February. If the Hornbein Roof project is approved, then staff will be able to use the funds allocated by the City Council (approximately \$200,000) for other maintenance projects.

Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Request – The State will announce grant awards in early 2007.

HPC Driving Brochure – Staff should see a proof of the design sometime in the next week. A final proof will be sent to Commission members for review before it goes to print.

Historic Preservation Commission Vacancy and Attendance - The City has not yet received any applications for the position vacated by Michael Lockwood. Gordon Tucker reported that he spoke to Ocie Brown who said that his company had won a large contract at Denver International Airport, and that he has been working non-stop. Mr. Brown did indicate that he would like to continue to serve on the Commission.

V. Old Business

Trailer 610 - Gordon Davis reported that the tarp covering the trailer had to be replaced and that he has been looking for indoor locations for storage and restoration. Approximately 2000 square feet would be needed.

Retreat Sub-Committee Assignments – Gordon Davis brought up a possible plaque program and some of the questions that would need to be answered before such a program could begin. The HPC will consider the issue in more depth at the January meeting.

Ranger Motel – Gordon Tucker asked for input as to the best way to approach the owner of the Ranger Motel and propose that the site be landmarked. After discussion, it was decided that a letter would be sent laying out the benefits of landmarking, and asking for a meeting to further discuss the issue.

VI. New Business

Colorado Preservation Inc. (CPI) Annual Conference – The Commission discussed the upcoming CPI conference as well as the day long training session that will be held for members of preservation commissions. Staff said that they would help transport HPC members to the conference site in downtown Denver if needed. Staff will find out how HPC members should register for the conference and will send out information as it becomes available.

Next HPC Meeting

- Plaque Project
- Update on Ranger Motel
- Building 880 National Register Nomination

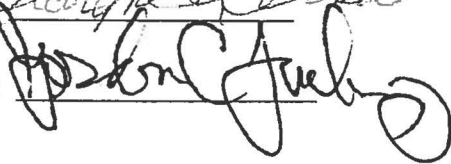
VII. Adjournment:

The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned its meeting at 7:46 p.m. to enjoy its annual Holiday Potluck.

Submitted by:



Approved by:



RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE ST. THERESE SCHOOL AS AURORA HISTORIC
LANDMARK NO. 23**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado ("the City"), adopted Article 19 of Chapter 146 of the City Code, that provides for the preservation, protection, enhancement, regulation, and use of buildings, structures, sites, and areas reflecting elements of the City's cultural and architectural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has appointed a Historic Preservation Commission ("the Commission") for the purpose of making recommendations on the designation of landmarks and historic districts; and

WHEREAS, after a public fact finding hearing on December 5, 2006, the Commission voted to recommend to the City Council that the St. Therese School Landmark site, located at 1200 Kenton Street be designated as Aurora Historic Landmark No. 23.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
AURORA, COLORADO:**

That pursuant to the authority granted by Article 19 of Chapter 146 of the City Code, the St. Therese School Landmark site, located at 1200 Kenton Street, City of Aurora, Colorado is hereby designated as Aurora Historic Landmark No. 23.

RESOLVED AND PASSED this _____ day of _____ A.D. 2007.

EDWARD J. TAUER, Mayor

ATTEST:

DEBRA JOHNSON, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: _____

**CITY OF AURORA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF ST. THERESE SCHOOL
HISTORIC LANDMARK SITE**

**Generally located at 1200 Kenton Street, City of Aurora, Arapahoe County,
Colorado.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to City Code Section 146-1901, of a public hearing by the City Council on Monday, April 9, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora, Colorado, to consider designation of the St. Therese School Historic Landmark site. Any person may appear at such hearing and present evidence upon any matter to be determined by the City Council.

Debra Johnson
City Clerk

(Publish Notice one time in The Aurora Sentinel.)

Publication Date: _____

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION

TO: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE DATE: March 9, 2007
FROM: Gordon Davis DEPARTMENT: Lib., Rec.& Cultural Serv.
SUBJECT: St. Therese School Landmark

- Original Document *
- Amended Document - Original Document Transmitted on: _____
- Emergency or Pre-Publication *
- Requested by: _____ Department: _____

**Please submit TWO copies of document to be published.*

DATE(S) FOR PUBLICATION:

(Note: If document is to be published more than once, indicate each date.)

NUMBER OF PROOFS OF PUBLICATION: _____

(Note: The total should include (1) to City Clerk for Central Records, plus the number needed for your Department.)

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

=KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS=