

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory

other names/site number Brighton Prisoner of War Branch Camp/5AM.3221

### 2. Location

street & number 224 North Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Brighton N/A vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Adams code 001 zip code 80601

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

   national    statewide X local

[Signature] Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 1/26/14  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

   entered in the National Register    determined eligible for the National Register

   determined not eligible for the National Register    removed from the National Register

   other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action



Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

---

## Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary

The massive two-story ornamental concrete block Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory, erected in 1908, stands in Brighton, a city of about 36,000 people located 24 miles northeast of Denver. Established as an agricultural community and incorporated in 1887, Brighton is the county seat of Adams County. The large canning factory is north of the downtown commercial area, situated between North Main Street and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The long west façade of the Early Twentieth Century Commercial-style canning building faces the street and abuts the wide concrete public sidewalk. A wide driveway north of the building provides access to an area paved with asphalt, concrete, and crumbled asphalt; a similar area is east of the factory, enclosed by a fence along its east and south perimeter. South of the building a large dirt yard is enclosed with a vertical board fence.

On the same assessor parcel but not included within the nominated boundary are three one-story buildings: a brick service station/garage to the north (1949); a concrete block storage building to the northeast (1913/1960 and 1956/1980); and a metal storage shed to the east (1959). All post-date the period of significance for the canning building.

The building displays historic integrity dating to the period of significance for Architecture: 1908 (the date of its original construction) and ca. 1913-20 (the estimated date of two historic additions). It also has integrity from a second period of significance associated with its use as a German prisoner of war camp in 1945.

---

### Elaboration

Brighton's Colorado Sanitary Canning Company is a massive (140' x 73') ornamental concrete block building consisting of the main rectangular factory (120' x 42') constructed in 1908, a two-story ketchup room at the southeast corner dating to between 1913 and 1920, and a one-story projection on the south, built atop a former loading dock dating to the same period (Photograph 1). Additions built in the early postwar era include a small early 1950s gabled metal projection on the north wall and a ca. 1948-56 shed roof one-story concrete block component on the rear (see Sketch Map, which indicates dates of construction for the building elements). At least three types of concrete block finishes are present: rock-faced (resembling natural stone), panel-faced (chamfered edges), and plain-faced (smooth).<sup>1</sup> In addition, the shed-roofed rear component is composed of plain-faced cinderblocks. The rock-faced blocks are the most numerous type used in the factory and measure about 6" x 20". The ornamental concrete blocks were painted silver in the mid- to late-1970s; in places the paint is now missing, revealing the original grayish-tan color of the blocks. Windows and doors have been replaced unless otherwise noted.

### West Wall

The canning factory's west wall along North Main Street is composed of a 20'-long one-story section to the south and a 120'-long two-story section to the north, both constructed of rock-faced ornamental concrete block (Photographs 2 and 3). The one-story section is the west wall of a shed roof part of the building dating to ca. 1913-20. On the one-story section the concrete block extends to grade, with no visible foundation. The wall features a historic off-center vertical tongue-and-groove wood door near the south end with a concrete sill and lintel.<sup>2</sup> To the north and higher on the wall is a boarded-up window with a concrete sill and lintel; the original

---

<sup>1</sup> Albin Wagner, *Brighton, Images of America*, (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2009) 88; Deon Wolfenbarger, *Wilmore Canning Factory*, 224 North Main Street, Brighton, Colorado, 5AM.3221, Architectural Inventory form, March 2014. Wolfenbarger and Wagner assert the factory was constructed with locally-produced Hydrostone ornamental concrete blocks. This is erroneous since the earliest appearance of Hydro-Stone or Hydrostone in national newspapers dates to 1914. John Magnuson did not organize the Brighton Hydrostone Company until 1920 and it did not appear on Sanborn maps until that year.

<sup>2</sup> Many of the building's sills and lintels extend beyond the width of the openings.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

window opening was taller as there is an area filled with ornamental concrete blocks with a second lintel above. The top of the wall features slightly projecting concrete coping.

The two-story section (the original 1908 factory) displays a raised poured concrete foundation containing three horizontal window openings, two boarded-up with plywood and one filled with concrete. The first story has eight tall, evenly spaced, fixed four-light wood windows with concrete sills and lintels; the lights are stacked in each window (Photograph 4). A 1910 photograph (Figure 3) shows six-over-six-light windows in this location. The south portion of the second story contains five roughly square windows with concrete sills and lintels that have been filled with concrete blocks. Multi-light windows and some filled-in windows are shown on the second story in the 1910 photograph. A similar window is located at the north end of the second story and contains a fixed two-light wood window. The top of the wall has a slightly projecting full-width metal box with a metal gutter and three downspouts. The roof is covered with standing seam metal panels.

### **North Wall**

The north wall of the two-story factory component is also composed of ornamental concrete blocks and rests on a poured concrete foundation (Photographs 5 through 7). The west part of the first story contains a wood paneled door partially covered by a "for sale" sign. Areas flanking the door are composed of ornamental concrete blocks and bricks covered with stucco. A one-story slanting ghost line of tar of roofing cement above this area shows where a shed roof component once attached to the wall.

To the east is an early 1950s one-story front gable roof projection about 35' long. The east and west walls are composed of a poured concrete knee wall supporting corrugated metal panel-clad walls; the panels are applied horizontally. The front holds a tall overhead wood panel garage door, while the side walls are blank. The roof is clad with corrugated metal panels and features overhanging eaves. This component shelters a concrete vehicle ramp to the building's basement.

East of the projection is an early 1950s concrete ramp with raised curbs providing access to the first story; the wide entrance has a concrete lintel and wood jambs and contains a wood sliding door clad with flat metal panels that appears to be historic. The second story of the factory section is blank. The east third of the wall is slightly taller than the west part, and both sections feature concrete coping. Flush with the factory's north wall is the north wall of the one-story shed roof addition on the rear of the building. Its north wall is clad with corrugated metal panels and contains two overhead metal sectional garage doors.

### **East Wall**

On the rear of the building a long (90' x 31') one-story shed-roofed addition (erected ca. 1948-56) with a concrete foundation is attached to the east wall of the two-story factory component (Photograph 8). Its east wall is composed of plain-faced cinderblocks painted white and contains three square window openings that have been filled in with plain-faced concrete blocks. The windows have concrete and wire-drawn brick lintels. The roof is composed of standing seam metal panels applied over corrugated metal. The roof slightly overhangs and wood and L-shaped steel rafter ends are exposed.

The first story of the two-story factory component is hidden by the previously described element. The second story of the factory is composed of rock-faced ornamental concrete blocks and displays two square openings toward the north end filled with plain-faced concrete blocks. Toward the south end are two square window openings with concrete sills and lintels; one has been filled in with plain-faced concrete blocks and the other with panel-faced ornamental concrete blocks. The roof is composed of standing seam metal panels laid over corrugated metal panels. A narrow band of corrugated metal applied horizontally extends across the top of the wall.

Farther south, abutting the factory component and the shed-roofed component is a two-story, roughly square (31' x 30') element with a raised concrete foundation erected ca. 1913-20 (Photograph 9). Its east wall is composed of poured concrete, with the horizontal lines of successive pours visible. The first story contains a wide door opening filled with plywood. To the south are two three-light fixed windows (the lights are stacked), followed by a one-over-one double-hung window with a metal security grille and a flush wood pedestrian door opening onto wood steps with wood railings. The door opening has been reduced in width with wood paneling

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

infill. The first story of the north wall is not visible; the second story is clad with corrugated metal panels applied vertically.

Beyond this lies the east wall of the one-story shed-roofed component at the south end of the building (Photograph 10). Its east wall is composed of poured concrete with the horizontal pour lines visible. The wall contains three three-light fixed windows (lights are stacked) and an electrical service panel. Several small elm trees are growing along this wall and partially obscure it.

### **South Wall**

A full-width one-story shed-roofed projection (73' x 20') is on the south (Photographs 11 and 12). In 1908 this was an open concrete platform; it was extended to the east and enclosed ca. 1913-20. The eastern half of the projection has a raised concrete foundation and four nonhistoric overhead sectional corrugated metal garage doors. The second and fourth garage doors from the east feature long concrete ramps (ca. early 1950s); the eastern ramp has raised curbs. The western garage door contains a center flush pedestrian door. The western half of the wall displays a rock-faced ornamental concrete block foundation and features a beveled bay window to the east with a hipped roof and steel casement windows and a band of casement windows to the west. Panel-faced ornamental concrete blocks extend from the tops of the windows to the loading dock lip, below which are rock-faced concrete blocks; the upper part of the wall is clad with flush horizontal boards. The roof is covered with standing seam metal panels and has exposed rafter tails.

The second story at the east end is stuccoed and contains two square window openings that have been filled with plywood. The west part of the second story consists of rock-faced ornamental concrete blocks and displays three square window openings with concrete sills and lintels that have been filled with plywood. The top of this part of the wall has concrete coping.

### **Interior<sup>3</sup>**

No machinery associated with canning is present in the building. The first story of the original factory portion of the building is mostly open and retains a concrete floor and two evenly-spaced rows of massive posts with diagonal brackets (Photographs 13 and 14). The posts measure 11 5/8" x 9 1/2" in thickness, while the braces are 5 1/2" square. An open structure for a freight elevator (no longer present) is located toward the north end of the first story. The ceiling is drywall. Also at the north end of the first story, a flight of wood stairs leads to the second story (Photograph 15). The southwest corner contains a partitioned area with a bathroom. The south projection contains a small floor scale abutting the south wall of the factory. A nonhistoric office/vestibule clad in plywood is present at the location of the entrance in the east wall.

The second story of the factory section is also mostly open and features somewhat less substantial wood posts, a lower ceiling, and a wood floor. The south end of the second story still contains targets from the era it housed a shooting range. The north end contains a furnace, space heater, shelving, and a small office with a window and counter.

### **Alterations**

The large warehouse extending north from the factory building was removed prior to World War II.<sup>4</sup> The additions on the north (early 1950s) and rear (ca. 1948-56) were associated with post-cannery uses. The ornamental concrete block walls were painted in the 1970s. The freestanding factory office to the south was removed between 1948 and 1956. Most windows and doors have been replaced or filled in with concrete block.

---

<sup>3</sup> The basement and other portions of the interior were not accessible during fieldwork and the electrical supply was disconnected. The basement reportedly has a high ceiling, concrete floor, and rows of wood posts.

<sup>4</sup> Wolfenbarger, Wilmore Canning Factory, Architectural Inventory form, 2014; Leo L. Avey, Brighton, Colorado, Telephone Interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 8 September 2015. Although the 1948 Sanborn map still shows the warehouse section, late local historian Albin Wagner said it was removed prior to World War II; Wolfenbarger interviewed him for her survey. Leo L. Avey, whose family came to Brighton in 1937 and lived east of the canning factory, recalls seeing prisoners in the area north of the factory, which would have been impossible if the warehouse were still present.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

## Integrity

The Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory retains integrity dating to its periods of significance (1908, ca. 1913-20, and 1945), with two historic additions and modifications to the original building reflecting the continued functioning of the factory. Its location is unchanged. In terms of design, its appearance continues to substantially reflect decisions made at the time of construction to erect a factory representing the latest engineering and architectural standards as well as the anticipated requirements of the plant for its local operation. These characteristics include the massive scale, rectangular plan, horizontality, durable and fireproof construction materials, limited regularly spaced windows, and minimal ornamentation. Removal of the large warehouse extending from the north end of the factory building occurred prior to 1945. The immediate setting of the building, which is still bounded by North Main Street and the railroad tracks, continues to be utilitarian with minimal vegetation on the parcel. It now includes three smaller buildings erected after the periods of significance; all are set back from the factory. The original detached factory office building to the south is gone, as is the powerhouse and its smokestack.

The exterior walls of the Colorado Sanitary Canning building are composed of the original ornamental concrete block, including the 1908 factory section and the one-story shed-roof south component (the latter two sections date between 1913 and 1920). The ca. 1913-20 ketchup room at the southeast corner features poured concrete walls. The two additions on the north and rear (early 1950s and ca. 1948-56, respectively) have plain concrete block walls.

The building's workmanship continues to provide strong evidence of the physical environment, technology, and skill required to manufacture its hundreds of concrete blocks locally. The building has a high level of integrity of feeling, evoking the pragmatic aesthetic of factory architecture and testifying to conditions for workers employed in a canning operation. These aspects of integrity support the association between the building and its function as one of the canning factories constituting an important industry in Brighton's past, while also illuminating why the building was selected as a prisoner of war branch camp during World War II.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)  
Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

ARCHITECTURE

MILITARY

**Period of Significance**

1908, ca. 1913-20, 1945

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Roberts, Patrick Henry

Cole, C.C.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance for Architecture is 1908 (the year the building was erected) and ca. 1913-20 (when two factory-associated additions were constructed). The period of significance for Military is 1945 (corresponding to the period of time the building was used to house German prisoners of war).

**Criteria Considerations (justification)**

None.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

---

## Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

### Summary

The 1908 Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Military history for housing German prisoners of war during World War II in 1945. It is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an example of local ornamental concrete block construction applied to an early twentieth century manufacturing building. The building meets the requirements for listing under the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940," under the associated property type Ornamental Concrete Block Commercial/Industrial Buildings.

---

### Elaboration

#### Criterion A

The canning factory is significant in the area of military history for the role it played as part of a nationwide network of camps operated by the U.S. Army to house enemy prisoners of war (POWs) during World War II. The building served as a branch POW camp and provided quarters for the majority of the 589 German prisoners of war held in the Brighton area. The canning factory is the only extant resource within Adams County possessing historic integrity that held POWs during World War II.<sup>5</sup> The German prisoners detained at Brighton helped ameliorate the wartime manpower shortage on the homefront, working for area farmers in tending and harvesting sugar beets, onions, potatoes, and cabbage. No World War II prisoner of war resources in Colorado have been individually listed in the National or State Registers. Historian Janet E. Worrall, who studied the prisoner experience in northern Colorado, remarked in 1990 that "there is little on the landscape to remind one of this episode in wartime America."<sup>6</sup> Nationally, a few POW-related resources are listed, typically a surviving individual building associated with one of the main camps within a state.<sup>7</sup>

#### Criterion C

Colorado Sanitary Canning is also significant for its architecture as a rare surviving local example of an industrial building (a canning factory) built of ornamental concrete block.<sup>8</sup> It is also notable as the only remaining example of a canning factory in the city. The building is eligible under the 1997 Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940." In the first two decades of the twentieth century a number of firms across the nation developed techniques for the onsite production of concrete blocks using hand-operated metal machines.<sup>9</sup> Manufacturers of manually operated

---

<sup>5</sup> Allen W. Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado: German Prisoners of War, 1943-46," *Colorado Magazine* 56 (Summer/Fall 1979): 120; *Brighton Blade*, 4 May 1945, 1; Sanborn Map Company, Brighton, Colorado, fire insurance maps, sheet 9 (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1948); Brighton, Colorado, Google Earth image, 6 October 2014; *Denver Post*, 3 December 2000. Three other locations within Adams County reportedly housed POWs: a dormitory of the Great Western Sugar Company in Brighton (razed), the State Armory in Brighton (5AM.120; recent large addition on the east), and a camp at Rose Hill on the grounds of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Commerce City (razed; site obliterated by north-south runway construction at Stapleton International Airport). The *Brighton Blade* identified the Armory only as a site housing Army guards and not holding POWs.

<sup>6</sup> Janet E. Worrall, "Prisoners on the Home Front: Community Reactions to German and Italian POWs in Northern Colorado, 1943-46," *Colorado Heritage* (1990): 47.

<sup>7</sup> For example, see Nancy Weidel, Officer's Club, Douglas Prisoner of War Camp, Douglas, Wyoming, National Register of Historic Places individual nomination, 29 March 2001.

<sup>8</sup> COMPASS file search, 15 June 2015. The file search showed no ornamental concrete block resources with manufacturing as an original use. Only 155 ornamental concrete block resources of all uses appeared.

<sup>9</sup> Pamela H. Simpson, Harry J. Hunderman, and Deborah Slayton, "Concrete Block," in *Twentieth-Century Building Materials*, ed. Thomas C. Jester (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1995), 80; Brighton Genealogy Society, *The History of Brighton, Colorado and Surrounding Area* (Dallas, Texas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1987), 85; *Svensk Amerikanska* (Denver), 5 March 1920, 8.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

concrete block machines claimed that one man could produce three hundred blocks in a day.<sup>10</sup> The blocks grew in popularity before their production declined by 1940. Made from widely available cement, sand, and gravel, the blocks were fireproof and offered a strong, attractive, and durable alternative to brick and wood. Priced at fifteen to twenty-five cents per block, the units were larger than bricks and less expensive and faster for wall construction. In contrast to earlier and later concrete blocks, ornamental concrete blocks possessed “decorative surface designs to be used in visible exterior applications. ... Wreaths, scrolls, or cobblestone faces could easily be formed by changing the face plate in the block machines. The most popular surface treatment was rockface and the pattern was standard with most machines sold.”<sup>11</sup>

To meet the MPDF’s registration requirements, commercial/ industrial buildings “must have been primarily built of concrete block as the exterior wall surface. Painted block buildings remain [eligible] as long as the ornamental face patterns of the blocks remain visible. ... The buildings must have integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.”<sup>12</sup> The Colorado Sanitary Canning Company building features exterior walls of rock-faced and panel-faced tan-gray ornamental concrete blocks that were painted silver after 1973. Non-residential examples of ornamental concrete block construction in Brighton are rare. The only other industrial building constructed of ornamental concrete block is the former Hydrostone factory at 209 N. Kuner Road, which has been painted and features a large rear addition. Other non-residential examples include the State Armory (5AM.120) and a two-story commercial building at 234 E. Bridge Street.

### **Construction of the Colorado Sanitary Canning Company Factory**

In 1908 Brighton was the county seat and most populous town of Adams County, located in an agricultural area of the county near the Weld County line. The town boasted a number of food processing facilities in the early twentieth century, including the Kuner Pickle Company, Brighton Creamery, Northern Colorado Dairy Company (cheese factory), O.E. Frink’s cheese factory, Key’s Syrup factory, Brighton Mill and Mercantile Company (feed mill and elevator), and H. Claussen Feed Mill.<sup>13</sup> The Colorado Sanitary Canning Company is the only extant building once used for canning in Brighton.

The Wilmore Canning Company of Denver initially planned to erect a canning factory in Brighton. John T. Wilmore, S.S. Kirkpatrick, and E.E. Boyce incorporated the firm in 1903 and operated a factory in Denver until it burned down in 1907. Wilmore reasoned a plant in Brighton would have better access to more vegetables than a re-built factory in Denver. Before matters could proceed, a dispute over control of the company developed between Wilmore and Charles H. Green, a major stockholder. Two separate boards of directors were constituted, each claiming to be the company’s legitimate leadership. The dispute went to court in March 1908, and Green emerged as president of the firm.<sup>14</sup> Taking up the relocation plan, Green asked the Brighton business community to provide financial incentives for his company’s relocation. The Brighton Commercial Club raised the \$1,500 Green requested to partially cover the costs of building and equipping a new factory.<sup>15</sup>

Construction on the Wilmore Canning Factory began on 1 May 1908 at a site north of downtown Brighton on the west side of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. Patrick Henry Roberts served as contractor for the \$30,000 building.<sup>16</sup> C.C. Cole received the order for producing the concrete blocks for the project, adding new machinery to handle the volume, including a patent mixer and gasoline engine.<sup>17</sup> Cole was one of two entrepreneurs in Brighton producing concrete blocks; his advertisements in the local newspaper promised “all

<sup>10</sup> J. Randall Cotton, “Return to the Concrete Block House,” *Old House Journal* (March/April 1995): 39.

<sup>11</sup> Dale Heckendorn, *Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940*, National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, 4 April 1996, 3.

<sup>12</sup> Heckendorn, *Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado*, 22.

<sup>13</sup> Sanborn Map Company, Brighton, Colorado, fire insurance maps (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1908 and 1913).

<sup>14</sup> *Denver Post*, 16 March 1908, 6.

<sup>15</sup> Lee Scamehorn, *Colorado Small Town Industrial Revolution: Commercial Canning and Preserving in Northeastern Colorado* (Indianapolis, Indiana: Dog Ear Publishing, 2011), 24.

<sup>16</sup> *Brighton Register*, 1 May 1908, 3; Scamehorn, *Colorado Small Town Industrial Revolution: Commercial Canning and Preserving in Northeastern Colorado*, 24.

<sup>17</sup> *Brighton Register*, 15 May 1908, 1.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

blocks are made with the latest improved face down wet process machine and are the most perfect and durable blocks made.”<sup>18</sup> Excavation for the factory was completed by mid-May.<sup>19</sup>

Construction proceeded over the summer, and by late August the Brighton factory prepared to open. Having vanquished Wilmore, Green renamed the firm the Colorado Sanitary Canning Company.<sup>20</sup> The *Brighton Register* announced a public reception would be held on 1 September to celebrate the completion of the factory.<sup>21</sup> The *Brighton Blade* described the cannery’s public reception as “the greatest industrial event in the history of Brighton.”<sup>22</sup> The factory was thrown open to the public with all lights ablaze, machinery running, the Brighton band playing music, refreshments available in the basement, and dancing on the second story (see Figure 1). The newspaper ran an extensive description of the plant:

The buildings and machinery represent a total cost of about \$50,000. The building is lighted with the company’s own electric light plant, and the water for all canning purposes is supplied from an artesian well on the property. The plant is what is known as a three-line plant, and has an estimated capacity of 210 cans per minute. It is equipped to can or process tomatoes, catsup, pork and beans, peas and sauerkraut. Every arrangement conducive to sanitary perfection in operation of the factory has been adopted. The buildings are 300 feet in length and the capacity will employ at full force 250 to 300 persons.<sup>23</sup>

The Sanborn map for July 1908 shows a complex (labeled “from plans”) including the factory building, an attached warehouse to the north, a boiler plant to the east (attached to the south wall of the warehouse), and a detached office to south. The 1913 Sanborn map depicts the same configuration, notes that all of the buildings were of concrete block construction, and shows a railroad siding along the east wall of the building (see Figure 2).<sup>24</sup> A historic postcard and a January 1910 photograph also show the completed facility (see Figures 3 and 4).

### Operation and Successive Owners of the Factory

The factory began operating in September 1908 and processed tomatoes, ketchup, pork and beans, and sauerkraut. The firm contracted for six hundred acres of tomatoes that year.<sup>25</sup> The cannery operated seasonally, from early summer to late fall, and closed the remainder of the year. In 1910 the company more than doubled the capacity of the plant and contracted for more vegetables from local farmers. It advertised in the *Denver Post* in the fall of that year for women and men to work at the Brighton factory, promising “good pay.”<sup>26</sup> Two years later the company invested \$10,000 to add new equipment, including machinery for handling peas. The plant could produce two thousand cases each day of “Green’s Sugar Peas.” The label brand indicated the change of the company name to the C.H. Green Canning Company. At various times Green owned or controlled five other canneries besides the one in Brighton, including plants in Platteville, Milliken, Pueblo, and Fort Morgan, Colorado, and Albuquerque, New Mexico.<sup>27</sup> Green died in April 1914, and the company closed all of his canneries except the one in Brighton. The factory played a significant role in the

<sup>18</sup> *Brighton Register*, 1 May 1908, 1; Cotton, “Return to the Concrete Block House,” 39. After molding, blocks were removed from the mold and dried for two to four weeks while receiving daily misting. Producing all of the blocks needed for the factory was a sizable task; Cotton estimated a good-sized house might need 6,000 blocks.

<sup>19</sup> *Brighton Register*, 15 May 1908, 1.

<sup>20</sup> Scamehorn, *Colorado Small Town Industrial Revolution: Commercial Canning and Preserving in Northeastern Colorado*, 25. The name denoted “the cannery used modern ‘sanitary’, or ‘open-top’ cans, as opposed to what were called ‘hole in the top’ cans.”

<sup>21</sup> *Brighton Register*, 28 August 1908, 1; *Brighton Blade*, 28 August 1908.

<sup>22</sup> *Brighton Blade*, 4 September 1908, 1.

<sup>23</sup> *Brighton Blade*, 4 September 1908, 1.

<sup>24</sup> Sanborn Map Company, Brighton, Colorado, fire insurance maps (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1908 and 1913).

<sup>25</sup> Brighton Genealogy Society, *The History of Brighton, Colorado and Surrounding Area* (Dallas, Texas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1987), 116.

<sup>26</sup> *Denver Post*, 24 September 1910, 11.

<sup>27</sup> Scamehorn, *Colorado Small Town Industrial Revolution: Commercial Canning and Preserving in Northeastern Colorado*, 25-26.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

town's economy that year, paying area farmers \$31,000 for vegetables and plant workers \$20,000 in wages. The factory produced tomatoes, sauerkraut, peas, green beans, pumpkin, and hominy, packing roughly 75,000 cases of vegetables.<sup>28</sup>

Faced with increasing debts, the business reorganized as the Platte Valley Canning Company in 1916 under the management of Walter E. White, Green's brother-in-law. During World War I Brighton's canneries expanded output and prospered due to the high demand for canned and pickled foods.<sup>29</sup> As part of its World War I effort, Platte Valley Canning sent 14,000 cases of canned tomatoes to France in November 1918.<sup>30</sup> Following the war, the nation experienced a brief recession and canneries witnessed falling prices. Colorado cannery historian Lee Scamehorn described Platte Valley as "a casualty of the recession." In 1921, the company only produced 15,000 cases of peas and did not open during the 1922-24 seasons.<sup>31</sup>

The Fort Lupton Canning Company, headed by Denver financier W.N.W. Blayney, acquired the Platte Valley factory in 1925.<sup>32</sup> The firm was also known as the Blayney Canning Company. A 1929 Brighton Directory reported that Blayney Canning "employs a goodly number of people for several weeks during the summer, canning vegetables grown on nearby farms."<sup>33</sup> Marguerite Counter served as secretary/treasurer of the business in 1935.<sup>34</sup> Business historian William L. Reich concluded the Great Depression "caused most of the smaller [Colorado] canning companies to fail, with only those large enough to weather the financial storm making it to the 1940s, when the Second World War again created a large demand for canned food."<sup>35</sup> The canning factory does not appear to have operated after 1936, but Fort Lupton Canning Company owned the property through 1946.

### **World War II and German Prisoners of War**

The canning factory played an important military role during World War II in 1945 by housing German prisoners of war, who were deployed to work in surrounding agricultural areas. Historian Allen Paschall judged: "From fall 1943 to spring 1946 the POWs were a major factor in the farm-labor force in Colorado."<sup>36</sup> Between 1943 and mid-1946, 422,000 German and Italian military prisoners of war (POWs) were held captive within the continental United States.<sup>37</sup> Given its limited land and manpower to build and operate POW camps, the British government pressed the U.S. to accept POWs after American entry into the war in December 1941. In August 1942 the Roosevelt administration agreed to receive up to 50,000 of the large numbers of German and Italian prisoners taken captive during the North African campaign (1940-43).<sup>38</sup> The surrender of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel and his Afrika Korps in May 1943 "resulted in the wholesale shipment of prisoners to the United States."<sup>39</sup> The POWs were transported to the U.S. aboard troop and supply ships that would otherwise have returned empty and were then taken by railroad to camps operated by the U.S. Army.

The Army established a system of 155 base camps located in forty-five of the forty-eight states. These facilities were required to comply with the provisions of the 1929 Geneva Convention for the housing and treatment of

<sup>28</sup> Scamehorn, *Colorado Small Town Industrial Revolution: Commercial Canning and Preserving in Northeastern Colorado*, 25-26.

<sup>29</sup> Scamehorn, *Colorado Small Town Industrial Revolution: Commercial Canning and Preserving in Northeastern Colorado*, 28.

<sup>30</sup> *Littleton Independent*, 17 January 1919, 6.

<sup>31</sup> Scamehorn, *Colorado Small Town Industrial Revolution: Commercial Canning and Preserving in Northeastern Colorado*, 32.

<sup>32</sup> Scamehorn, *Colorado Small Town Industrial Revolution: Commercial Canning and Preserving in Northeastern Colorado*, 33; Adams County Assessor, ownership records, 1925.

<sup>33</sup> Quoted in Brighton Genealogical Society, *History of Brighton*, 131.

<sup>34</sup> Brighton Genealogical Society, *History of Brighton*, 148.

<sup>35</sup> William L. Reich, *Colorado Industries of the Past* (Boulder, Colorado: Johnson Books, 2008), 159.

<sup>36</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado," 131.

<sup>37</sup> Allen K. Powell, *Splinters of a Nation: German Prisoners of War in Utah* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1989), 1-2 and 40.

<sup>38</sup> Arnold Krammer, *Nazi Prisoners of War in America* (Lanham, Maryland: Scarborough House, 1996), 2-3.

<sup>39</sup> Judith M. Gansberg, *Stalag: U.S.A., The Remarkable Story of German POWs in America* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1977), 7.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

POWs. The permanent base camps held 2,000 to 4,000 POWs and were located on existing military bases, converted New Deal-era Civilian Conservation Corps or National Youth Administration camps, or purpose-built facilities. Fearing sabotage by escaped prisoners, security considerations required that the camps be located 170 miles inland from the east and west coasts, 150 miles from the borders with Canada and Mexico, and away from shipyards, munitions plants, or other vital industries.<sup>40</sup>

A network of branch (or side) camps supported the base camps. Under the command of the closest base camp, branch camps filled an area's "permanent or temporary work needs as additions to the base camps."<sup>41</sup> The Geneva Convention permitted captors to require enlisted POWs to work. Following an analysis of the Convention's provisions, the War Department issued a policy on the use of POW labor in January 1943: ". . . any work outside the combat zones not having a direct relation with war operations and not involving the manufacture or transportation of arms or munitions, and not unhealthful, dangerous, degrading, or beyond the particular prisoner's physical capacity, is allowable and desirable."<sup>42</sup> This POW labor helped fill critical manpower shortages resulting from war mobilization.

To effectuate the work program the Army established more than 500 branch camps across the country, each holding from about 100 to 750 prisoners.<sup>43</sup> Branch camps occupied a wide variety of existing facilities, including fairgrounds, armories, hotels, schools, warehouses, gymnasiums, dormitories, and other buildings.<sup>44</sup> These camps placed POWs close to areas where their labor was needed, minimized the risks involved in transporting prisoners, and conserved fuel. Businesses, agricultural interests, and chambers of commerce were invited to petition the War Department for POW labor under guidelines addressing pay and other safeguards under the Geneva Convention. The U.S. Army Provost Marshal General's Office received the task of administering the camps. Colorado was part of the Seventh Service Command headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska. The Army and the International Red Cross routinely visited the camps to ensure they were run in adherence with the Geneva guidelines.<sup>45</sup> Historian Arnold Krammer judged: "Prisoners with needed skills could be transferred anywhere and at any time that military or agricultural needs arose, and branch camps were made available or temporarily erected for just that purpose. The arrangement proved remarkably successful."<sup>46</sup>

Colorado housed approximately 17,500 POWs during the war at three main camps located at Camp Carson near Colorado Springs, Trinidad, and Camp 202, eight miles west of Greeley in Weld County. Camp Carson, with 12,000 prisoners, was the largest facility; Greeley contained 3,000 men; and Trinidad interned 2,500.<sup>47</sup> The first prisoners of war to arrive in Colorado were Italians sent to Camp Carson; by the summer of 1943 they were replaced by German POWs. In addition to the main camps the state contained forty-five branch camps located in areas where the POWs could supply agricultural or other types of labor.

Most people on the homefront embraced POW labor once it became clear that fears of mass escape or violence were groundless. Although the large base camps included tall barbed wire fences, barrack dormitories, elevated guard towers, and patrol dogs, the branch camps generally reutilized existing buildings.<sup>48</sup> Historian Allen W. Paschal found that "it was relatively easy for prisoners to walk away from the branch work camps, for security was almost nonexistent."<sup>49</sup> A "calculated risk" policy was adopted for the camps due to manpower shortages, with the escape an ever-present possibility. At some Colorado camps prisoners initiated sit-down strikes, which were met with by a "no work, no eat" policy. Strictness in enforcing Army policies varied to some extent based on the camp administrator's approach. Fraternization between camp personnel and the

<sup>40</sup> Krammer, *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*, 27.

<sup>41</sup> Gansberg, *Stalag: U.S.A.*, 25.

<sup>42</sup> Krammer, *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*, 81.

<sup>43</sup> Krammer, *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*, 35.

<sup>44</sup> Powell, *Splinters of a Nation*, 54.

<sup>45</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado," 122.

<sup>46</sup> Krammer, *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*, 36.

<sup>47</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado" 119; Chris Morine University of Denver, Camp Trinidad Research Project, 22 April 2014, <https://portfolio.du.edu> (accessed 27 November 2015). No standing buildings remain at the locations of the three main camps in Colorado. Some concrete foundations, piers, and stone alignments are present at the Trinidad site.

<sup>48</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado," 122.

<sup>49</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado," 134-135.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

prisoners was prohibited due to security concerns. Despite some civilian fears regarding safety in Colorado, the handful of prisoners who escaped did not commit acts of sabotage and none remained at large in the state after the war ended.

In an article for *Colorado Magazine*, Paschal described the typical daily life of the POWs. The men awoke to the sound of a bugle at 5:00 a.m., worked during the day, participated in leisure sports, and attended religious services. The Geneva Convention allowed prisoners to wear their military uniforms in camp. Most of the German POWs in Colorado were veterans of Rommel's panzer divisions captured in North Africa, and some continued to wear their light desert uniforms, even in the winter.<sup>50</sup> Prisoners at the Greeley camp published at least two weekly newspapers, with content varying from crossword puzzles and cartoons to literary works and descriptions of places in Colorado.<sup>51</sup> American newspapers and magazines<sup>51</sup> were available, and movies were screened. Prisoners also took classes taught by fellow POWs and correspondence courses.<sup>52</sup> In addition, the Army hoped to politically re-educate the prisoners by distributing books banned by the Nazis, with several Colorado universities offering material from their libraries.<sup>53</sup>

In the early years of the war prisoners received rations similar to American combat soldiers, and German cooks prepared their meals. In 1944 and later the Army initiated "food conservation" measures after the public questioned whether the prisoners were receiving better food than American soldiers.<sup>54</sup> In June 1945 the *Brighton Blade* complained in an editorial that "it is absurd and ridiculous to favor and pamper German prisoners of war—men who, if they had the opportunity—would continue to inflict their Nazi cruelty and barbarism upon us in payment."<sup>55</sup> The *Denver Post* reported a prisoner's daily ration in 1945 cost the United States twenty-five cents.<sup>56</sup> POWs sometimes supplemented the restricted fare by covertly brewing the German ales they missed.<sup>57</sup>

German prisoners received payments ranging from forty dollars per month for officers to ten cents per day for enlisted men in the form of credit at local banks or coupons at the camp canteen, with such funds underwritten by the United States. Those who labored "for the benefit of the United States" generally received an additional eighty cents per day.<sup>58</sup> Historian Janet Worrall reported local farmers paid the prevailing wage for each job to the Army, which kept any money above the prisoner's rate of pay to maintain the camp.<sup>59</sup>

The Army considered the agricultural labor provided by prisoners through the Emergency Farm Labor Program an important part of its internment program. Colorado's food production sector experienced extreme manpower shortages during the war, as citizens enlisted in the military and moved to cities to work in war industries. Assembling harvest crews to prevent crops from simply rotting in fields was particularly difficult, thus the branch camps were designed to place workers in the areas of greatest need. After the War Department indicated POWs could work on farms in 1943, the Colorado Extension Service requested a prisoner of war camp near Greeley. Allen Paschal reported that "the Extension Service divided the state into districts to administer the farm-labor program, and it also worked very closely with county agents, county labor organizations, and private firms to coordinate the placement and the utilization of the workers."<sup>60</sup> Janet Worrall found farmers in the Greeley base camp area formed associations that contracted with the Army for prisoners,

<sup>50</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado," 123.

<sup>51</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado," 126.

<sup>52</sup> Worrall, "Prisoners on the Home Front," 35.

<sup>53</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado," 134.

<sup>54</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado," 125. Paschal reported the food conservation measures included substitutes for sugar, butter, and beef.

<sup>55</sup> *Brighton Blade*, 1 June 1945, 2.

<sup>56</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado," 123.

<sup>57</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado," 131.

<sup>58</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado," 126 and 130. Enlisted men received pay for their work, as did NCOs who supervised them. Officer POWs also received pay but were not required to work, Brighton historian Pat Reither reported the payment for labor received by Germans was half in script to use at the camp, with the remainder deposited in a savings account.

<sup>59</sup> Worrall, "Prisoners on the Home Front," 34.

<sup>60</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado," 131.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

and county labor boards established wage rates for agricultural work. The use of POWs in the farm-labor program ended on 16 June 1946.

### The Brighton Branch POW Camp

The nearest main POW facility, Camp 202, eight miles west of Greeley, opened in early March 1944. However, POWs housed at Brighton initially came from Camp Carson and were housed in Great Western Sugar dormitories for the 1944 season.<sup>61</sup> For the 1945 season, Camp Carson also supplied the German POWs who arrived in June of that year.<sup>62</sup> The 589 POWs were assigned to quarters in the canning factory, a Great Western Sugar dormitory, and possibly the Brighton Armory. The Army guards for the POWs were billeted in the Armory.<sup>63</sup> The Brighton canning factory received the largest number of prisoners of the three local incarceration sites. Some of the same factors prompting the original construction of the canning factory made it a good candidate for a branch POW facility: large size and durability of the building, location in a dense agricultural area where workers were needed, proximity to primary roads and railroads, and nearness to the main camp. Worrall indicated that communities desiring prisoner labor cooperated with organizations interested in agricultural production to provide quarters for the POWs.<sup>64</sup> For example, Great Western Sugar Company in Greeley helped renovate an unused school and provided showers and latrines. The Army furnished the buildings with cots and other items.<sup>65</sup> Brighton historian Pat Reither reported the land around the Brighton cannery was encircled by barbed wire fencing, and many residents recalled seeing the prisoners playing baseball on the north side of the building. Lt. Francis J. Fitzpatrick, branch camp commander, remarked: "The people of Brighton can best help the maintenance of discipline by avoiding the vicinity of the camp."<sup>66</sup>

The Brighton prisoners were assigned to work on farms in both Adams and Weld counties. Janet Worrall described the general farm labor program workday. Farmers picked up their prisoners at 7 a.m. and returned them to camp within ten hours. The *Brighton Blade* reported POWs worked six days a week, leaving Brighton at 6 a.m. and working on farms until 6 p.m. The POWs rode in the back of the farmers' trucks, while their guards sat with the drivers or followed in other vehicles. A work crew ranged from two or three to more than a dozen men, depending on the agricultural season and tasks. Farmers could share a group of prisoners who would work on a variety of assigned tasks.<sup>67</sup>

Regulations prohibited conversation among the farm families and prisoners, other than that needed to provide instructions for work. Gifts such as cigarettes and special foods were discouraged. Brighton historian Pat Reither noted the Army did not have enough guards for each work crew, so the farmers had to provide their own security measures.<sup>68</sup> Some farmers, especially those of German heritage, felt sympathy for the POWs' situation and relaxed the rules with their workers, enjoying conversations, supplementing their worker's rations with more and better food, and developing friendships. Janet Worrall described several instances of farm families providing home-cooked meals and snacks for POWs without their guards knowing. Others furnished meals with the tacit acceptance of the guards, many of whom also enjoyed the food prepared by farmers' wives.<sup>69</sup> She found prisoners sometimes returned to camp with bags of fresh vegetables from the farms where they worked.<sup>70</sup> Some local residents and newspapers criticized this "pampering" of German prisoners.<sup>71</sup>

<sup>61</sup> *Brighton Blade*, 4 May 1945, 2.

<sup>62</sup> *Brighton Blade*, 1 June 1945, 1. POWs apparently were returned to the main camps at the end of the agricultural season.

<sup>63</sup> Paschal, "The Enemy in Colorado," 120; *Brighton Blade*, 4 May 1945, 2. Paschal indicates POWs were housed in the Armory, but the *Brighton Blade* only lists the cannery building and the Great Western Sugar dormitory, with the Armory only housing the guard contingent.

<sup>64</sup> Worrall, "Prisoners on the Home Front," 34.

<sup>65</sup> Worrall, "Prisoners on the Home Front," 34.

<sup>66</sup> *Brighton Blade*, 1 June 1945, 1.

<sup>67</sup> Worrall, "Prisoners on the Home Front," 39; *Brighton Blade*, 8 June 1945, 1.

<sup>68</sup> Reither, "Brighton Camp was Branch POW Site," 4.

<sup>69</sup> Worrall, "Prisoners on the Home Front," 39.

<sup>70</sup> Worrall, "Prisoners on the Home Front," 37.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

Pat Reither interviewed residents of the Brighton area who remembered the POWs laboring in sugar beet, onion, and potato fields, as well as performing other tasks. The POWs also picked beans. The John Chikuma family engaged about fifteen prisoners to harvest sugar beets and used a farm truck to transport them. A few of the prisoners spoke English, but sign language was employed to tell most of them what work was needed. Reither stated that most of the prisoners had been technicians, artisans, and scholars and needed training to perform farm chores.<sup>72</sup> Eventually, the Extension Service prepared pamphlets in German detailing the farm techniques required for various crops. The Chikuma family described the prisoners as “very helpful and polite.”<sup>73</sup>

One local resident recalled bringing workers to his or her farm to work in the sugar beet fields and not being allowed to offer them food. Another said guards indicated he should not give his POW workers water while they toiled in the field, but he responded that while they were on his property he would provide it. Most families discovered that their workers were more productive when they received a home-cooked meal, according to Reither. Ileene and Edward Kerbs, who farmed in Keenesburg, transported as many as thirty prisoners to their farm each day to work in their sugar beet and hay fields. Ileene thought the prisoners’ camp-issued lunches consisting of “stale bread with lard and dried up oranges” were “disgusting.”<sup>74</sup> She baked bread for the workers each day and gave them jelly, honey, and meatloaf. One prisoner artistically painted scenes on two cardboard boxes for her in appreciation.<sup>75</sup> Worrall also documented cases of prisoners providing small gifts or doing household chores for farm families.<sup>76</sup>

Security measures eased over time, and POWs formed lasting friendships with Brighton-area residents.<sup>77</sup> Bob Reither’s family trucked prisoners to their farm, where they conversed in German with his parents and his mother prepared meals the POWs ate in the kitchen with the family. The Brighton POWs worked through the 1945 season; their exact date of departure is uncertain. After the war ended, several Germans formerly incarcerated in Brighton returned for visits, and a few moved to the area permanently.<sup>78</sup>

### Later Uses of the Building

The Fort Lupton Canning Company sold the parcel in 1947 to Snelson Properties, who held it briefly before Jack C. Ferguson purchased it in 1950. Ferguson (1912-73) operated a service station and garage in the building to the north, at 238 North Main Street, and used the cannery building for a variety of purposes, including maintenance and storage of school buses for Adams County School District 12. In the early 1950s Ferguson had a concrete ramp installed to the basement of the building and had the corrugated metal projection built to shelter the ramp from inclement weather. School buses were stored in the basement of the factory building by backing them down the ramp.<sup>79</sup> The one-story projection on the rear (east) was also added by Ferguson, most likely in the early 1950s, as were the other concrete ramps to the building’s first story. The ramps facilitated Ferguson’s use of the factory for storing his extensive collection of antique motor vehicles.

The Platte Valley Rifle and Pistol Association rented the second floor of the factory from Ferguson and constructed a shooting range in the late 1950s. Members refurbished the wood floor, which had sustained water damage and erected a small office where targets were scored. The range included twelve shooting positions with targets 50’ distant at the south end of the building. Half-inch thick steel was placed behind the targets with buckets below to collect spent rounds. The club held tournaments here, drawing participants from Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Kansas. Leo L. Avey helped construct the range and stated it was

---

<sup>71</sup> Worrall, “Prisoners on the Home Front,” 35.

<sup>72</sup> Pat Reither, “Brighton Camp was Branch POW Site,” *Local Color*, December 2009, 4; *Brighton Blade*, 27 July 1945, 1.

<sup>73</sup> Pat Reither, “Building had an Uncanny Past,” *Local Color*, November 2009, 3.

<sup>74</sup> Reither, “Building had an Uncanny Past,” 4.

<sup>75</sup> Reither, “Building had an Uncanny Past,” 4.

<sup>76</sup> Worrall, “Prisoners on the Home Front,” 41.

<sup>77</sup> Reither, “Brighton Camp was Branch POW Site,” 4.

<sup>78</sup> Reither, “Building had an Uncanny Past,” 4.

<sup>79</sup> Susan K. Colyn, Northglenn, Colorado, Telephone Interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 4 September 2015; Nancy K. Hart, Orchard, Colorado, email to Thomas H. Simmons, 19 September 2015. Ms. Colyn and Ms. Hart are the daughters of Jack and Evelyn Ferguson.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

principally used for rifle practice although a few shot pistols. He recalled that if he were shooting from a prone position and a train passed on the tracks to the east "it shook the floor so much that he couldn't hit the target."<sup>80</sup>

After Jack Ferguson died in 1973, his widow, Evelyn, continued to operate the business and painted the exterior of the building silver.<sup>81</sup> In later years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars used it to store bicycles given to needy children at Christmas. According to Pat Reither, Budget Truck Rental was the last business to occupy the building.<sup>82</sup> Mrs. Ferguson continued to own the building until 1998 when she sold it to the Duffy family, the current owners. Garrison Properties of Kansas City plans to convert the now-vacant building into apartments.

---

<sup>80</sup> Reither, "Building Had an Uncanny Past," 4; Leo L. Avey, Brighton, Colorado, Telephone Interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 8 September 2015.

<sup>81</sup> Nancy K. Hart, Orchard, Colorado, Email to Thomas H. Simmons, 19 September 2015.

<sup>82</sup> Reither, "Building Had Uncanny Past," 4.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Avey, Leo L. Brighton, Colorado. Telephone Interview by Thomas H. Simmons. 8 September 2015.

*Brighton Blade*. 1945.

Brighton Genealogy Society. *The History of Brighton, Colorado and Surrounding Area*. Dallas, Texas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1987.

Buck, Anita. *Behind Barbed Wire: German Prisoners of War in Minnesota*. St. Cloud, Minnesota: North Star Press of St. Cloud, Inc., 1998.

Colyn, Susan K. Northglenn, Colorado. Telephone Interview by Thomas H. Simmons. 4 September 2015.

Cotton, J. Randall. "Return to the Concrete Block House." *Old House Journal* (March/April 1995): 32-39.

Counter, Marguerite Frink. "Pioneer Canning in Colorado." *Colorado Magazine* 30 (January 1953): 37-48.

Dorr, W. Carl. *History of Adams County, Brighton, and Fort Lupton, Colorado*. Brighton, Colorado: Brighton Blade, 1959.

Hamilton, Candy. *Footprints in the Sugar: A History of the Great Western Sugar Company*. Ontario, Oregon: Hamilton Bates Publishers, 2009.

Hart, Nancy K. Orchard, Colorado. Email to Thomas H. Simmons. 19 September 2015.

Heckendorn, Dale. *Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940*. National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form. 4 April 1996.

Hörner, Helmut. *A German Odyssey: The Journal of a German Prisoner of War*. Golden, Colorado: Fulcrum Publishing, 1991.

Paschal, Allen W. "The Enemy in Colorado: German Prisoners of War, 1943-46." *Colorado Magazine* 56 (Summer/Fall 1979): 119-42.

Powell, Allan Kent. *Splinters of a Nation: German Prisoners of War in Utah*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1989.

Reich, William L. *Colorado Industries of the Past*. Boulder, Colorado: Johnson Books, 2008.

Reither, Pat. Brighton, Colorado. Interview by R. Laurie and Thomas H. Simmons. 2 June 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Building Had an Uncanny Past." *Local Color*, November 2009, 3-4.

Robin, Ron. *The Barbed-Wire College: Reeducating German POWs in the United States During World War II*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1995.

Sanborn Map Company. Brighton, Colorado, fire insurance maps. Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1908-1956.

Scamehorn, Lee. *Colorado's Small Town Industrial Revolution: The Arkansas Valley and the Western Slope*. Indianapolis, Indiana: Dog Ear Publishing, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Colorado Small Town Industrial Revolution: Commercial Canning and Preserving in Northeastern Colorado*. Indianapolis, Indiana: Dog Ear Publishing, 2011.

Simpson, Pamela H. Harry J. Hunderman, and Deborah Slayton, "Concrete Block." In *Twentieth-Century Building Materials*, edited by Thomas C. Jester, 80-85. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1995.

Thompson, Glenn. *Prisoners on the Plains: German POWs in America*. Holdrege, Nebraska: Phelps County Historical Society, 1993.

Wagner, Albin. *Brighton*. Images of America. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2009.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

Wolfenbarger, Deon. Wilmore Canning Factory, 224 North Main Street, Brighton, Colorado, 5AM.3221.  
Architectural Inventory form. March 2014.

Worrall, Janet E. "Prisoners on the Home Front: Community Reactions to German and Italian POWs in Northern Colorado, 1943-46." *Colorado Heritage* (1990):32-47.

*Yuma Pioneer*. 8 May 1908. 3.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

5AM.3221

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 0.46

**Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.**

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>39.990245</u>	<u>-104.820187</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

**OR**

**UTM References**

\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

The UTM reference point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHF by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

1	<u>13</u>	<u>515366</u>	<u>4426678</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated area comprises a rectangle in part of Adams County Assessor parcel number 0156906300014 within the City of Brighton, described as follows: beginning at the northwest corner of the nominated building; thence north-northeast along the east edge of the public sidewalk along North Main Street a distance of approximately 81'; thence east-southeast approximately 82'; thence south-southwest approximately 198' to the intersection of the vertical wood fence marking the east-west parcel line; thence west-northwest approximately 10' to the intersection of the north-south parcel line; thence south-southwest along the north-south parcel line for approximately 55'; thence west-northwest approximately 72' to the

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

east edge of the public sidewalk; and thence north-northeast along the east edge of the public sidewalk to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes all of the parcel historically associated with the canning factory and its role in housing German prisoners of war, including the known POW recreation area, while excluding more recent unrelated buildings. The boundary includes the concrete ramps on the north and south and runs 10' from the east wall of the building.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, Historians (for property owner)  
organization Front Range Research Associates, Inc. date 30 November 2015 (revised)  
street & number 3635 W. 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue telephone 303-477-7597  
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80211  
e-mail frraden@msn.com website www.frhistory.com

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photograph Log**

Name of Property: Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory  
City or Vicinity: Brighton  
County: Adams State: Colorado  
Photographer: Thomas H. Simmons

**Number, camera direction, description of photographs, and date photographed:**

- 1 of 16, view southeast, front (west), June 2015.
- 2 of 16, view east-northeast, front (west), September 2015.
- 3 of 16, view east-southeast, detail of ornamental concrete block on front (west), June 2015.
- 4 of 16, view east-southeast, window detail on first story of west wall near south end, September 2015.
- 5 of 16, view southeast, west wall (right) and north wall (left), September 2015.
- 6 of 16, view south-southwest, north wall of factory (two stories), basement ramp enclosure, concrete ramp, September 2015.
- 7 of 16, view southwest, north wall of factory (two stories), projecting basement ramp enclosure, concrete ramp to first story, and one-story shed roof addition to left, September 2015.
- 8 of 16, view west-northwest, rear (east) with two-story factory in background, one-story shed roof addition in foreground, and two-story poured concrete component to left, September 2015.
- 9 of 16, view west-southwest, close up of two-story poured concrete component to left, September 2015.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

10 of 16, view west-northwest, east wall of one-story south addition, September 2015.

11 of 16, view northwest, south one-story projection (partially hidden by fence with two-story factory in background, September 2015.

12 of 16, view north-northeast, south wall of one-story addition with two-story factory section in background, September 2015.

13 of 16, view south-southeast, interior, first story of factory component, September 2015.

14 of 16, view north-northwest, interior, first story of factory component, September 2015.

15 of 16, view west, interior, first story showing stairs to second story, September 2015.

16 of 16, view south-southeast, interior, second story looking toward former target range, September 2015.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

### Historic Figure Log

1 of 4, This image shows the factory at the time of its completion in September 1908. The view northeast shows the factory (center), warehouse (far left), and office (far right). Courtesy of *Brighton Blade*, 4 September 1908.

2 of 4, This historic postcard view to the northeast shows the detached one-story office (right) and two-story canning building (left), with the boiler plant (smokestack) behind the cannery. The north end of the long warehouse section is visible at the left. Courtesy of Tom and Laurie Simmons, historic postcard image collection, Denver, Colorado, ca. 1910.

3 of 4, This 22 January 1910 view southeast shows the west wall of the original complex, with the warehouse section to the left, the factory to its right, and the one-story detached office beyond. Based on Sanborn map measurements, the factory was about 115' in length and the warehouse 95'. Courtesy of Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado, L.C. McClure photograph MCC-3446, 22 January 1910.

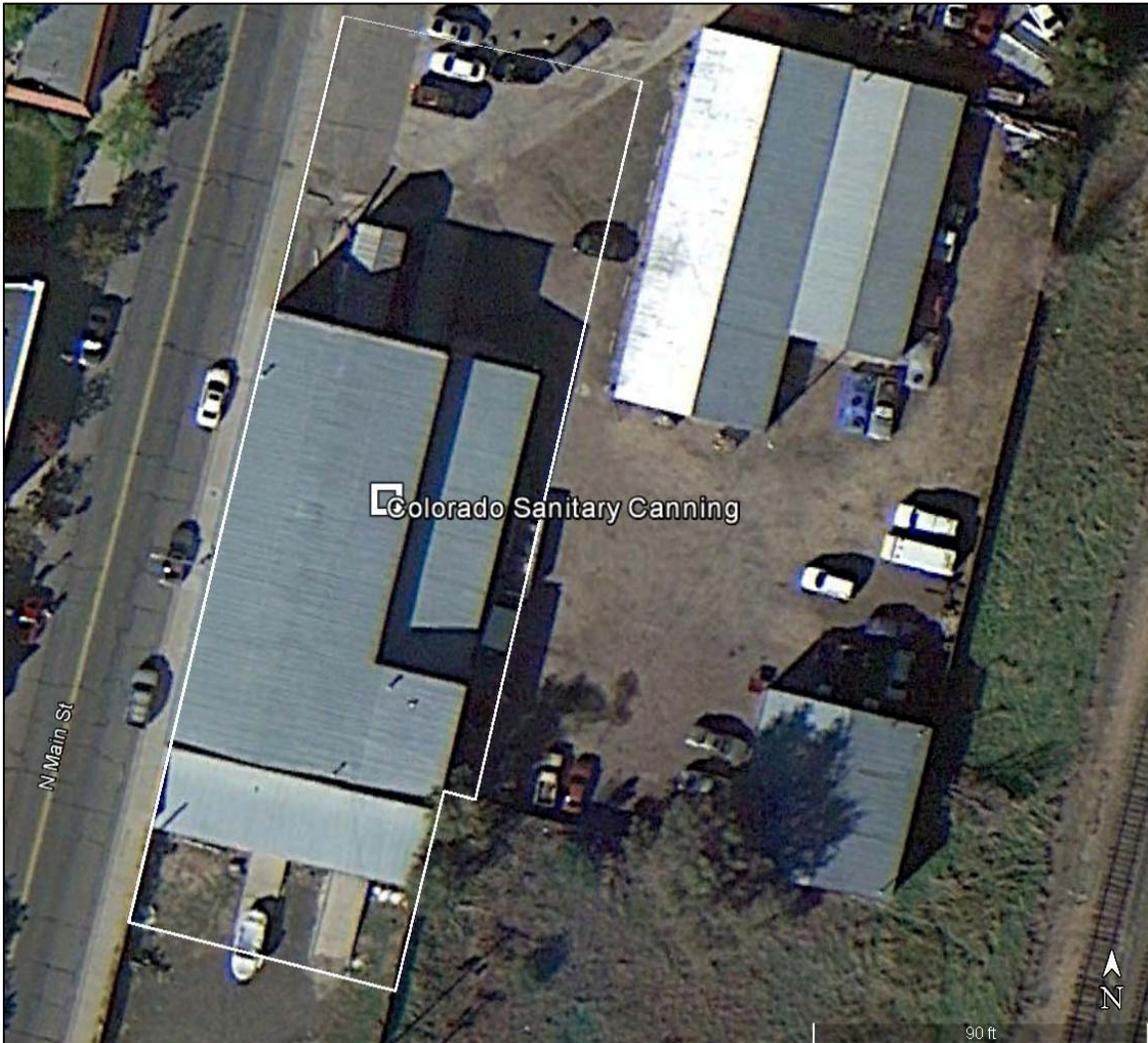
4 of 4, This fire insurance map shows the layout of the cannery complex in 1913. Courtesy of Sanborn Map Company, Brighton, Colorado, fire insurance map (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1913).

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

**Figures**

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

**Location Map from Google Earth**



The rectangular box outlined by a narrow white line shows the nominated area. The labeled white box indicates the location of the center coordinate of the nominated resource:

Latitude: 39.990245  
Longitude: -104.820187  
Image Date: 6 October 2014  
Datum: WGS84

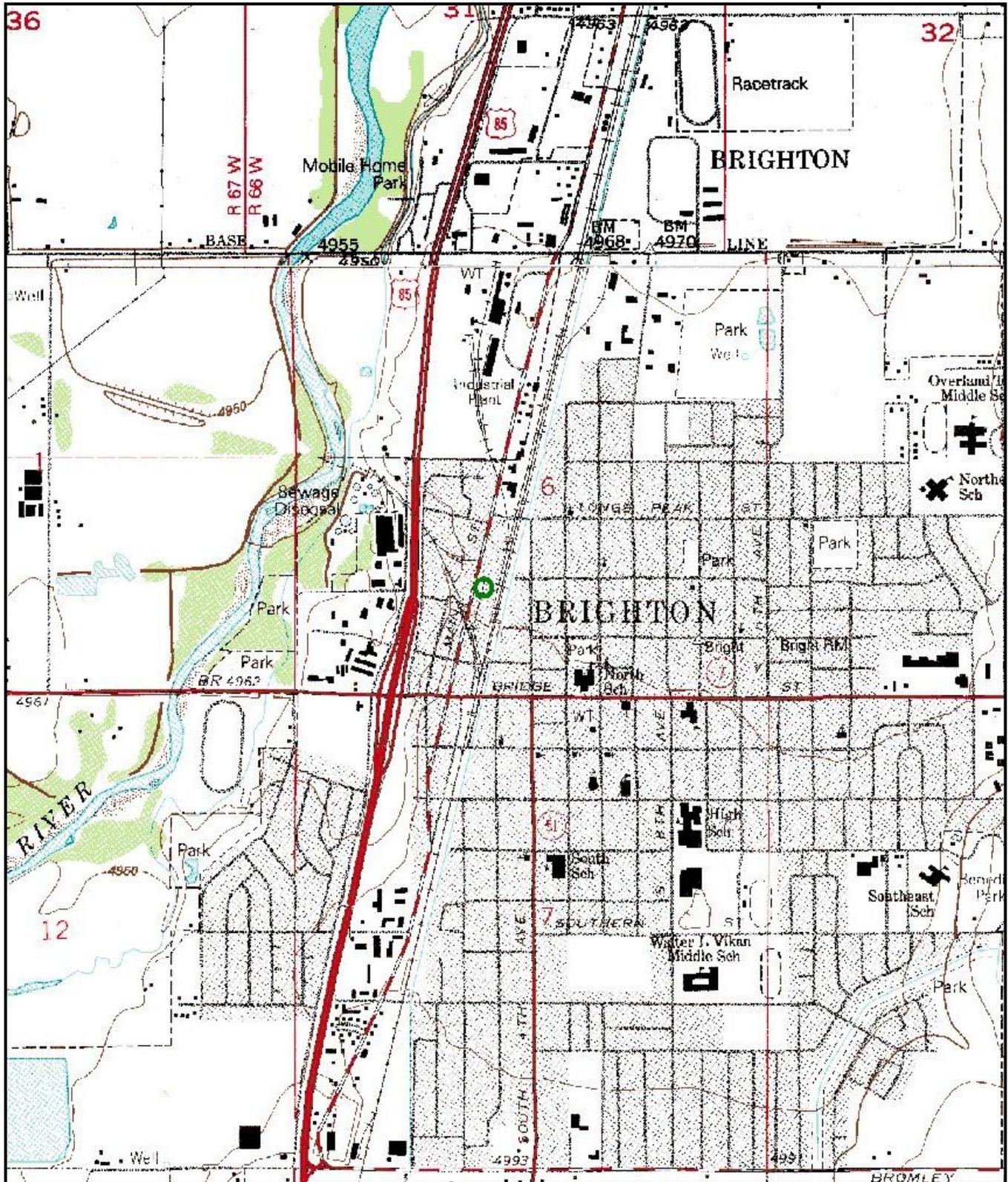
State Perspective:  
Colorado Sanitary  
Canning Factory



Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

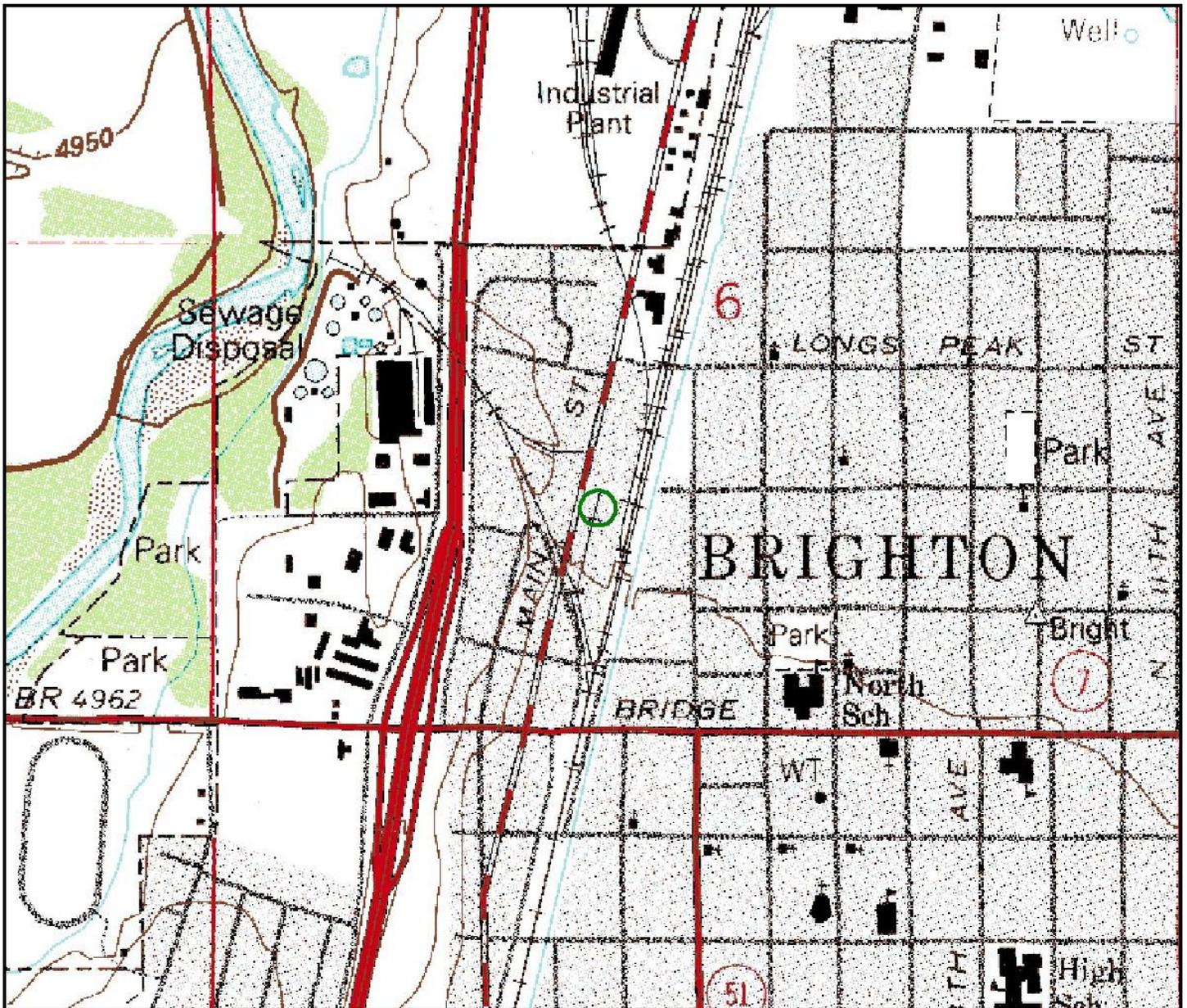
USGS Topographic Map – regional perspective  
Brighton 7.5 minute quadrangle

Elevation: 4980'



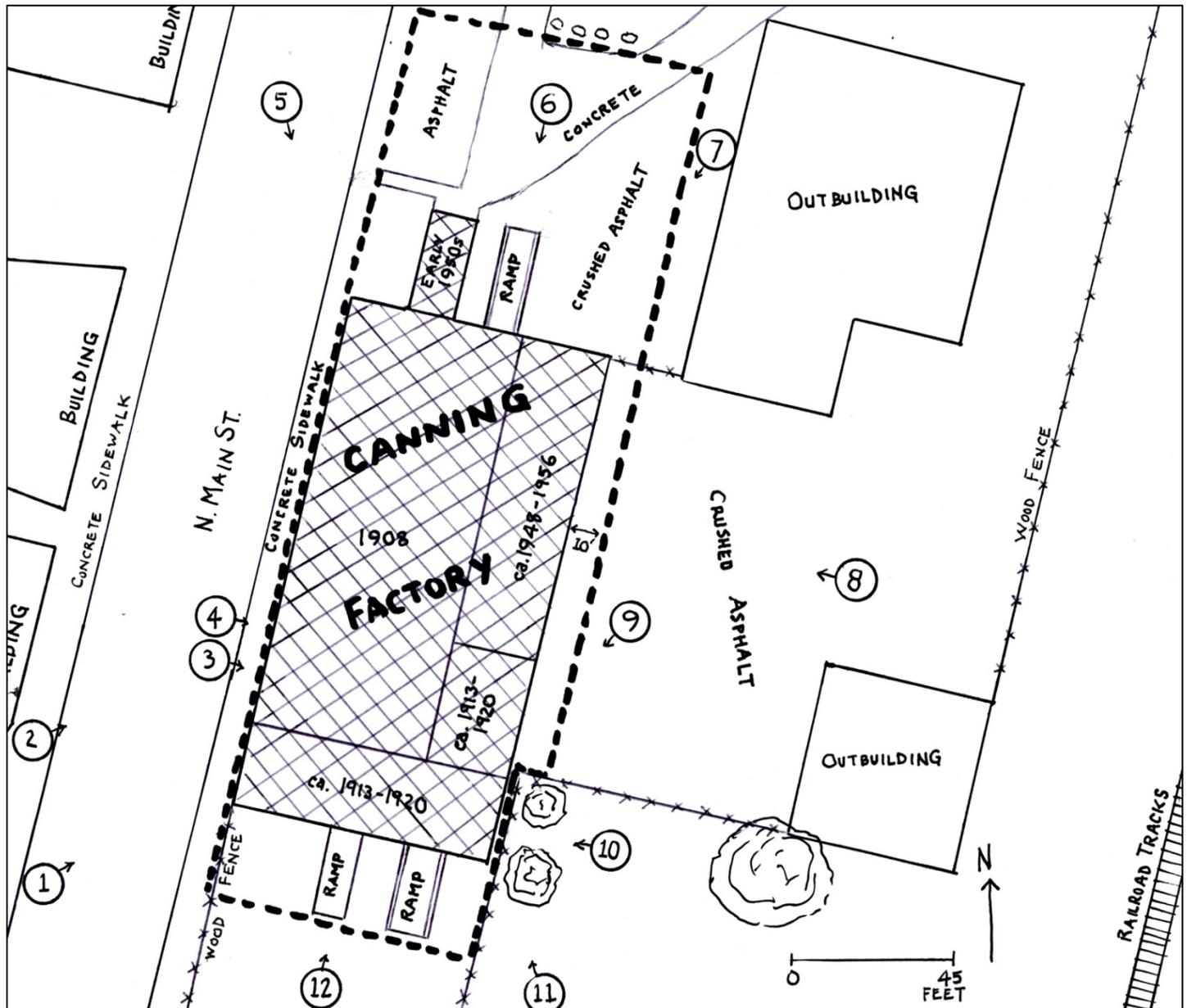
Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

USGS Topographic Map – close-up perspective



Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

Sketch Map



The thick dashed line is the boundary of the nominated area. Numbers in circles with arrows are locations of photographs and camera directions. Parts of the nominated building are labeled with the approximate year of construction.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State

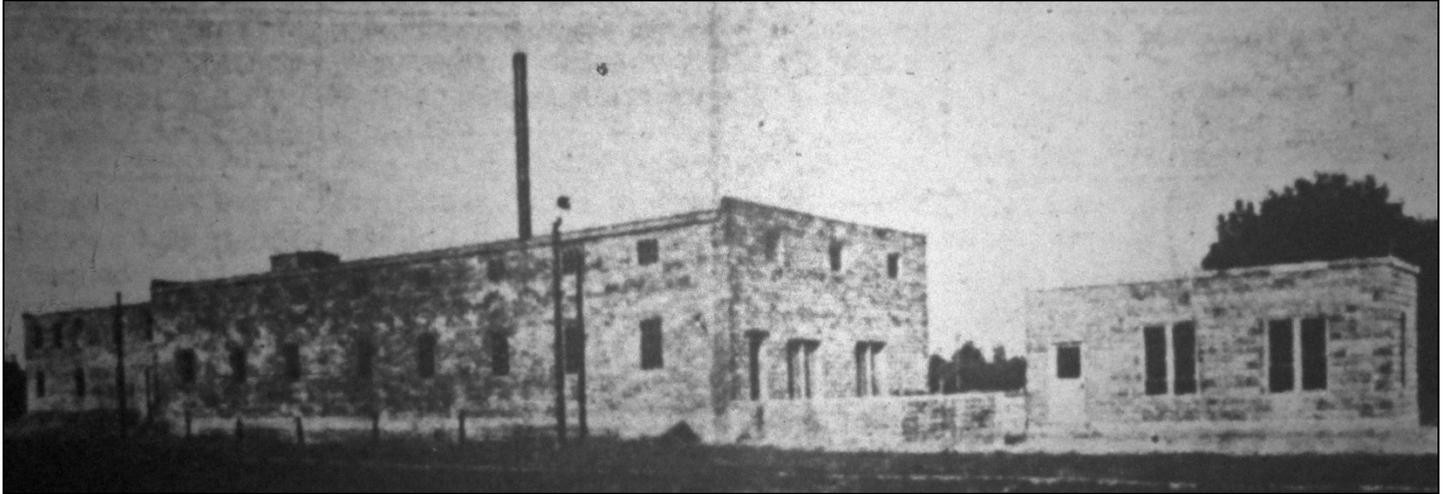


Figure 1 This image shows the factory at the time of its completion in September 1908. The view northeast shows the factory (center), warehouse (far left), and office (far right). Courtesy of *Brighton Blade*, 4 September 1908.

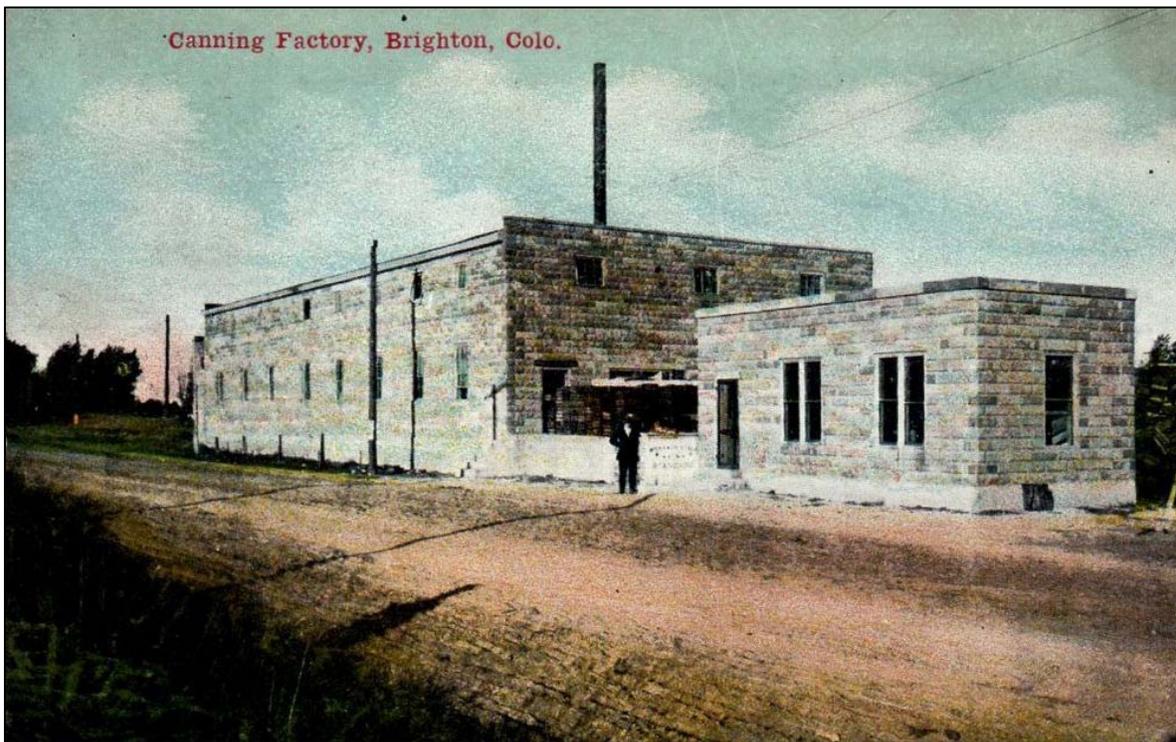


Figure 2. This historic postcard view to the northeast shows the detached one-story office (right) and two-story canning building (left), with the boiler plant (smokestack) behind the cannery. The north end of the long warehouse section is visible at the left. Courtesy of Tom and Laurie Simmons, historic postcard image collection, Denver, Colorado, ca. 1910.

Colorado Sanitary Canning Factory (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 MPDF) Adams, CO  
Name of Property County and State



Figure 3. This 22 January 1910 view southeast shows the west wall of the original complex, with the warehouse section to the left, the factory to its right, and the one-story detached office beyond. Based on Sanborn map measurements, the factory was about 115' in length and the warehouse 95'. Courtesy of Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado, L.C. McClure photograph MCC-3446, 22 January 1910.

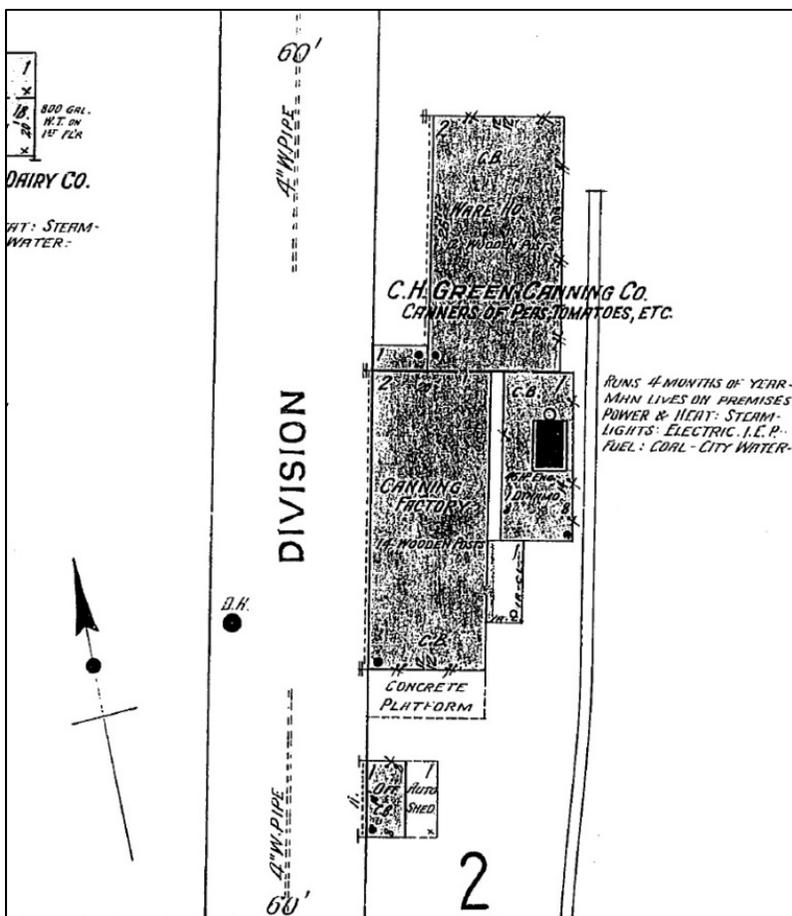


Figure 4. This fire insurance map shows the layout of the cannery complex in 1913. Courtesy of Sanborn Map Company, Brighton, Colorado, fire insurance map (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1913).