

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY 21 1984  
date entered JUN 21 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic F. W. CROCKER & COMPANY STEAM CRACKER FACTORY (NABISCO COMPANY BUILDING)

and/or common BLAKE STREET TERRACE

2. Location

street & number 1860 Blake Street n/a not for publication

city, town Denver n/a vicinity of

state Colorado code 08 county Denver code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Charles Schreiner Nelson

street & number P. O. Box 17291

city, town San Antonio n/a vicinity of state Texas 78217

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Denver City and County Building

street & number 1437 Bannock Street

city, town Denver state Colorado

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Ongoing  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Colorado Preservation Office, 1300 Broadway

city, town Denver state Colorado 80203

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The building represents a "typical" late nineteenth century factory in Denver which since 1945 has been primarily used as a warehouse. The structure is located on a corner lot of a fully built-out block, in a commercial district with zero setbacks. The overall shape is a rectangular floor plan with three stories and a basement. The exterior is divided into thirteen vertical bays on the 19th Street side and eight vertical bays on the Blake Street side.

The Nabisco Company Building is of masonry and heavy timber construction and rests on a foundation of cut stone, which extends approximately 60" above grade. During the preceding years, some miscellaneous steel beams have been added. However, the majority of the exterior door and window openings remain in original condition. The facade is broken by rows of symmetrical windows separated by unbroken columns of brick terminating at a cornice of three more rows of brick corbels. There are decorative bands between the floors and connecting the bays just below the arch; and a decorative cornice in brick. The bays are arched and have a cap of corbelled brick, which also lends a rhythm to the surface of the exterior walls. The roof is composed of EPDM roofing and is virtually flat.

There are no distinctive interior architectural features except for the utilitarian heavy timber framing. The high interior ceilings reflect the original function of the building.

Rehabilitation of the building will restore the majority of the building to its original basic condition (less equipment). Window openings will be restored to their original forms, brick and stone will have paint removed and the masonry repaired to restore it to its original condition. The Nineteenth Street sidewalk will be rehabilitated and trees planted. Planters are constructed of and trimmed in brick so as to harmonize with the building. Interior wood structural members will be replaced if necessary.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Adjacent is a separate new ten story office building which compliments and accentuates the renovated 1881 original structure through the similar use of brick corbels and dentils, fenestration and detailing. The new building is structurally separate with separate mechanical systems. There is an opening on street level that allows access to the new structure.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1881; 1885 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Nabisco Company Building has local importance in serving as a bakery and a shipping headquarters for the Nabisco Company for a five-state region over a period extending from 1890 to 1940. The building also can be said to be a good representative of the utilitarian architectural style applied to industrial commercial buildings typical in the warehouse district of Denver in the late 19th-early 20th century era.

The building was constructed in 1881 by F. W. Crocker as a cracker factory.<sup>1</sup> In 1885 the factory was "improved" and rebuilt after much of the interior was destroyed by fire.<sup>2</sup> By 1890 the American Biscuit Manufacturing Company used the site for a steam cracker bakery. Later, the Nabisco Company occupied the premises and used it as a bakery until approximately 1940.

While the National Biscuit Company occupied Blake Street Terrace, the facility was used as a bakery and shipping headquarters for a five state region including Wyoming, New Mexico, and Colorado. Nabisco produced at that time a variety of confections and crackers in its bakery facility. As early as the 1930s Nabisco was avant-garde in its company policies concerning employee benefits; sick benefits, and employee compensation were common place. In addition to employee benefits, Nabisco plunged thousands of dollars into the state of Colorado economy. Over the years the National Biscuit Company substantially added to the state of Colorado's economy and to the rights and benefits of the employees of its facilities during its occupation of Blake Street Terrace from the early 1900s until the early 1940s.<sup>3</sup> Since that time the building has primarily been used as a warehouse.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rocky Mountain News; January 1, 1881; p.22 C.3.

<sup>2</sup>Rocky Mountain News; 8/16/85; p.4.C. 6. Rocky Mountain News; 8/30/85; p.2 C.4.

<sup>3</sup>Conversations with Mr. Ben Berlinger, Engineer with National Biscuit Company from 1921 to 1961.

<sup>4</sup>Denver building permit ledgers.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Rocky Mountain News; January 1, 1881; p.22.C. 3. Denver building permit ledgers.  
Rocky Mountain News; 8/16/85; p.4 C.6.  
Rocky Mountain News; 8/30/85; p.2 C. 4.  
Conversations with Mr. Ben Berlinger, Engineer with National Biscuit Company from 1921 to 1961.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .479 acres

Quadrangle name Commerce City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	3	5	0	0	4	3	0	4	4	0	0	1	3	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

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D 

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E 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1 through 3 of Block 39, east Denver Platte, city and county of Denver, state of Colorado.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vern M. Seieroe, Architect

organization Midyette/Seieroe and Associates

date 22 March 1983

street & number 1730 15th Street

telephone (303) 443-9960

city or town Boulder

state Colorado

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Barbara Sudler*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5-14-84

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 6/21/84

*for Melissa Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

MIDYETTE ASSOCIATES, P.C.

1730 15th Street  
BOULDER, COLORADO 80302  
Phone 443-9960

JOB BLAKE STREET TERRACE

SHEET NO

OF

CALCULATED BY [Signature]

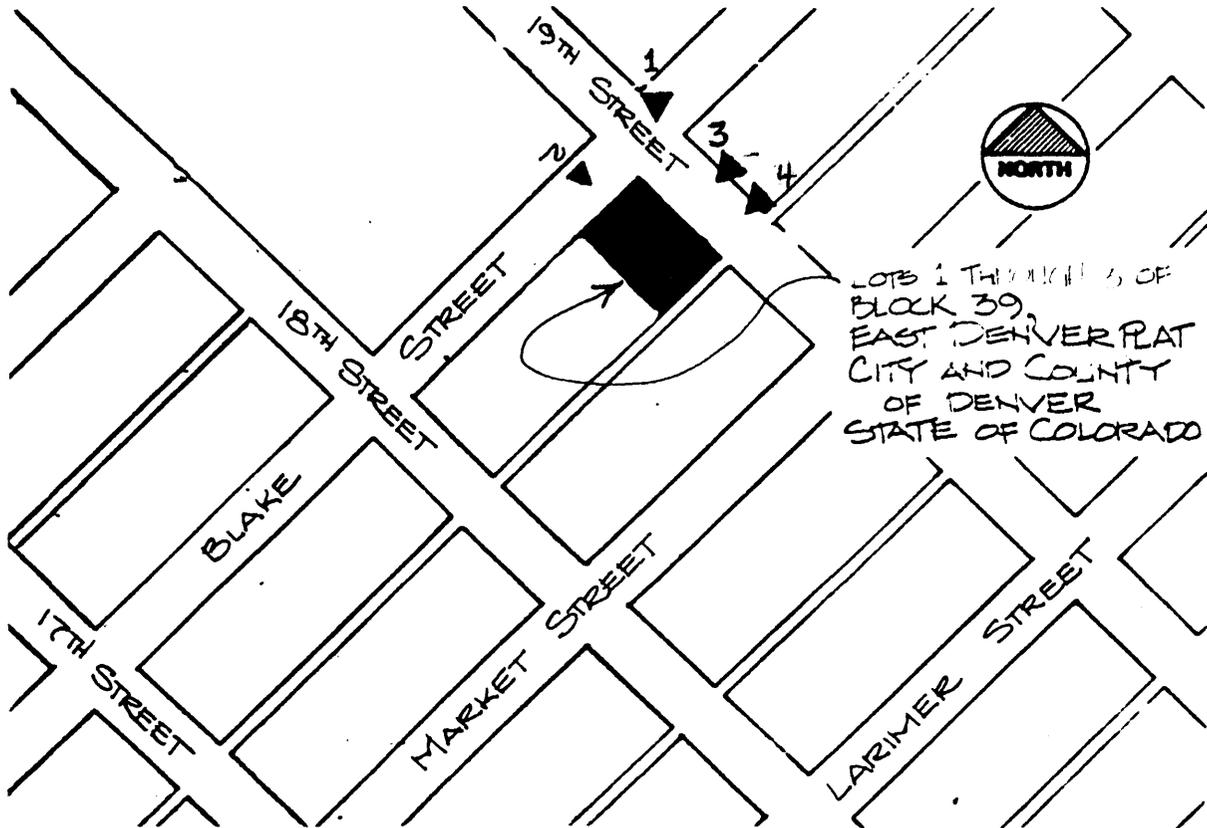
DATE

8.8.83

CHECKED BY

DATE

SCALE



## LOCATION MAP / CAMERA ANGLE

Nabisco Company Building  
Denver County, Colorado

Scale Unknown  
By: Vern Seieroe  
August 1983

3/7/90

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Crocker, F. W., and Company Steam Cracker Factory  
Denver County, COLORADO

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

Keeper Beth Boland 4/6/90