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*20* Celebrating  
Years of Innovation  
in Higher Education

**A BRIEF HISTORY  
OF AURARIA**

**Auraria, circa 1915**

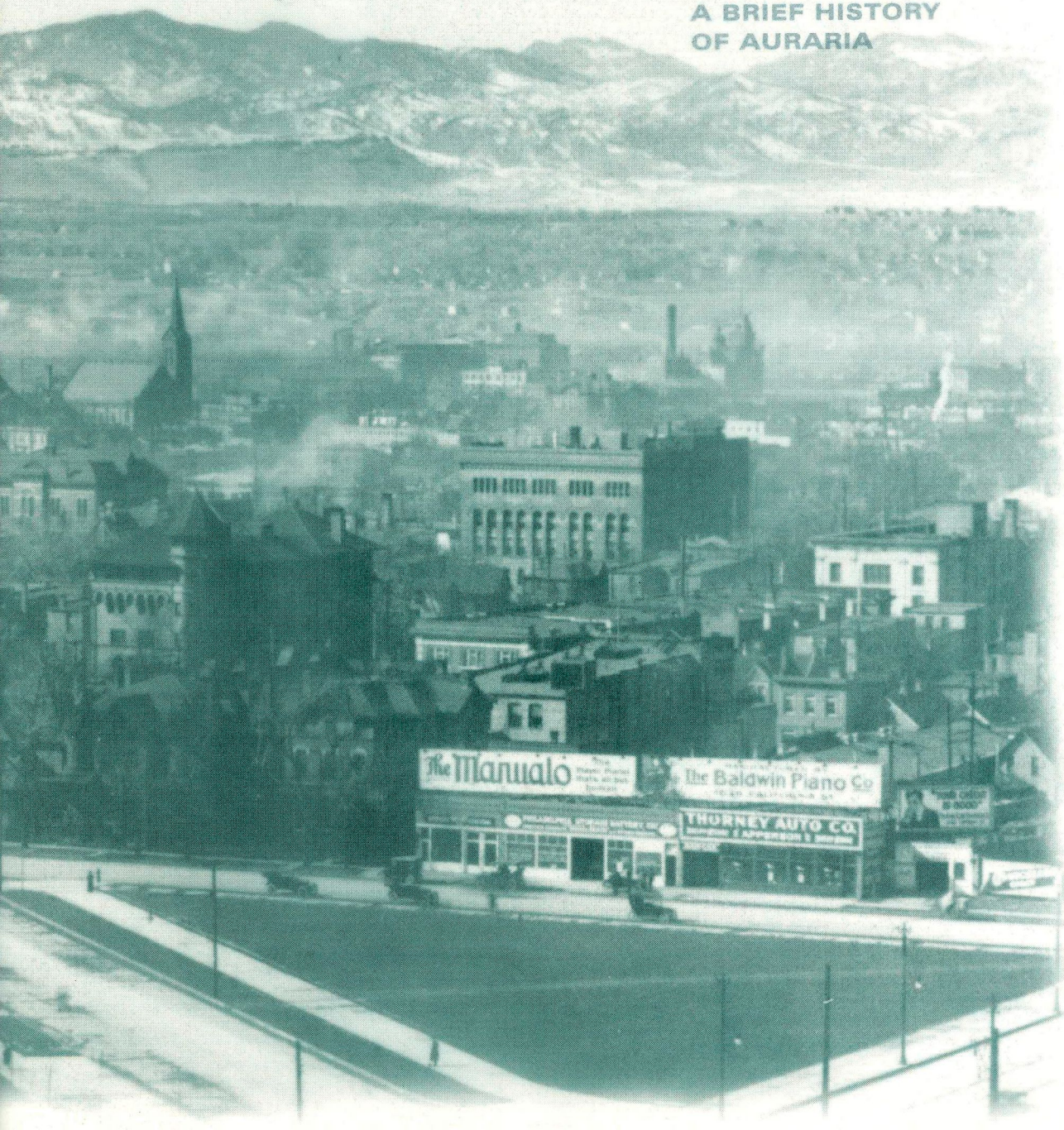
*This photo of West Colfax at Fifteenth Street was taken before construction began on the Civic Center. The Center's sunken gardens had been designed and laid out by the great landscaper Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. years before the project was completed in 1931.*

*Landmarks on West Colfax include the Public Library (1909), funded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and built in the style of a Greek Revival Temple, and the Denver Mint, a 1906 model of Renaissance architecture inspired by the Palazzo Medici Riccardi in Florence. St. Elizabeth's Church and Tivoli Brewery are visible in the background.*

Photograph by L.C. McClure, courtesy of the Denver Public Library Western History Collection.

*20* Celebrating  
Years of Innovation  
in Higher Education

**A BRIEF HISTORY  
OF AURARIA**





*Historical Photo*

This historical photograph captures a panoramic view of a city, likely Denver, Colorado, in the early 20th century. The foreground shows a fenced-in area, possibly a racetrack or a large public square. The middle ground is dominated by a row of commercial buildings. From left to right, the signs on these buildings read "The Baldwin Piano Co.", "The Marzotto", and "MURPHY AUTO CO.". The background features a dense urban landscape with various buildings, including a prominent church with a tall, dark steeple. In the far distance, a range of rugged mountains is visible under a clear sky.

Photograph by J.C. McCleure, courtesy of the Denver Public Library Western History Collection

**20** *Celebrating  
Years of Innovation  
in Higher Education*

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**A BRIEF HISTORY  
OF AURARIA**

# Auraria Then and Now



2

On a weekday afternoon at 5:00 pm, when many college campuses are winding down for the day, the Auraria Higher Education Center in downtown Denver starts picking up the pace. Cars zip in and out of the parking lots. Students toting backpacks or briefcases scramble off to class — a downtown office worker taking night classes to get that promotion, a single mother trying to make a better life for her children, a recent high school graduate balancing education and a full time job. From 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. and even on weekends, this commuter campus pulsates with energy and a sense of purpose.

Auraria's non-traditional environment offers students many educational choices. Under a unique arrangement, three separate schools — Community

College of Denver, Metropolitan State College of Denver, and the University of Colorado at Denver share space and centralized services on Auraria's 127-acre grounds. Together the institutions educate nearly 20% of all Colorado college students. Their combined enrollment of approximately 33,000 makes Auraria the largest campus in the state.

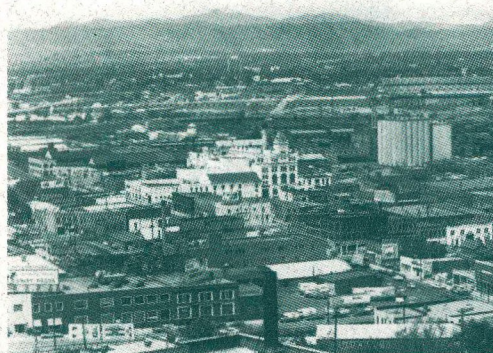
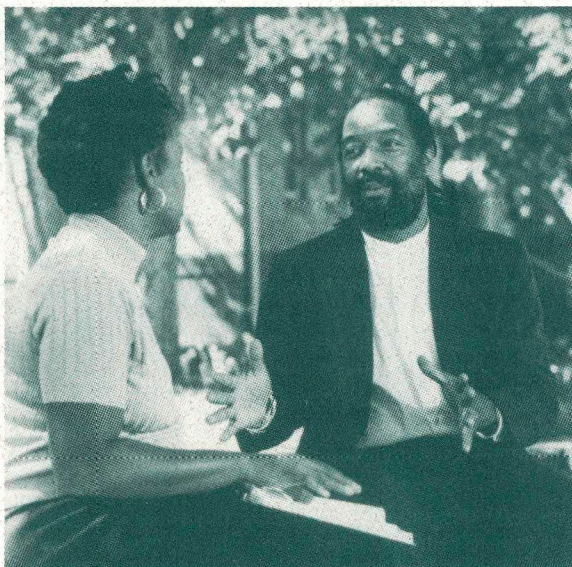
The three schools provide a substantial savings for students, who can choose from a wider range of programs and still pay lower tuition than counterparts in other state colleges. The combined campus has also been a boon to taxpayers and to the three institutions themselves. The advantages of maintaining a single library, student union, book center, child care center and physical education building are

evident. More subtle but equally substantial are the cost savings derived from combining support functions such as facilities management, parking, public safety, mail services and purchasing.

The Auraria community is a microcosm, a city within a city, larger than Northglenn, Englewood or Wheat Ridge. The student population is almost evenly divided between men and women whose average age is 28. Many attend classes part-time and 80% hold full or part-time jobs. Minorities comprise 25% of the total student population.

The ambiance at Auraria is casual and eclectic. The campus was an urban renewal project that blossomed in the late 1960s on the site of Denver's oldest settlement. Blending the old and the new, Auraria reflects the ethnic diversity of the original neighborhood. A former Jewish synagogue, an Hispanic church and a German brewery are landmarks from Denver's early days. Juxtaposed with modern buildings, they add architectural flavor, continuity and a visual link with the past.

The campus is an important part of downtown Denver's revitalization. Auraria provides a gateway to the central city and an inviting urban park. Art, music, theater, lectures and other cultural or sporting events further involve the campus in the life of the Denver metro area.



*The Auraria neighborhood in the late 1960s, before campus construction.*

## THE THREE INSTITUTIONS

4



*Many students find  
CCD an advantageous  
starting point for  
college or career.*

### **Community College of Denver**

Community College of Denver is the leading point of access for first-time college students from the city and county of Denver, open to all students over 16 from all educational backgrounds. Many find CCD an advantageous starting point for college or career, with small classes and an array of academic and personal support programs offered. CCD also provides remedial education for all three of the Auraria institutions.

Approximately 36% of degree seeking students enroll in occupational programs leading to certificates or Associate degrees. Others attend general

education or arts/science classes, many with the goal of later enrollment in four year colleges. CCD guarantees transfer of credits to Colorado public four year institutions for students successfully completing general education core courses.

More than 60 percent of CCD's Associate of Art and Science graduates transfer to a four-year college, a high percentage among the nation's community colleges. CCD prides itself on achieving the highest minority graduation rate (47 percent) among all Colorado higher education institutions.





### **Metropolitan State College of Denver**

The largest of the three colleges on the Auraria Campus, Metropolitan State College of Denver is also the largest four-year college in the United States. MSCD is entirely a baccalaureate institution, offering 50 majors and 68 minors in its three schools: Business, Professional Studies, and Letters Arts and Sciences. The emphasis at MSCD is on teaching and on meeting students at their own level of readiness. The school is open to high school graduates and non-graduates with a GED certificate. Metro State's classrooms are a rich mixture of age groups, socioeconomic classes, ethnic backgrounds, and lifestyles. Metro's faculty — among the most productive in the state — are master teachers, recruited and evaluated for their ability to teach and engage students.

MSCD takes pride in programs leading to employment, and places considerable emphasis on cooperative education and in service learning, where students can combine employment or volunteer work. Metro State educates more Coloradoans than any other college or university in the state, and about 80% of Metro's 36,700 graduates continue to live in Colorado.

### **University of Colorado at Denver**

CU-Denver offers extensive programs, including 29 undergraduate degrees, 43 master's and six doctoral degrees. Three dozen majors lead to baccalaureate degrees in the Colleges of Business and Administration, Engineering and Applied Science, and Liberal Arts and Sciences. Programs are tailored to meet the needs of a diverse student population, with special emphasis on assuring professional opportunities after graduation. The institution places relatively more emphasis on professional and advanced professional programs and upper division and graduate level studies.

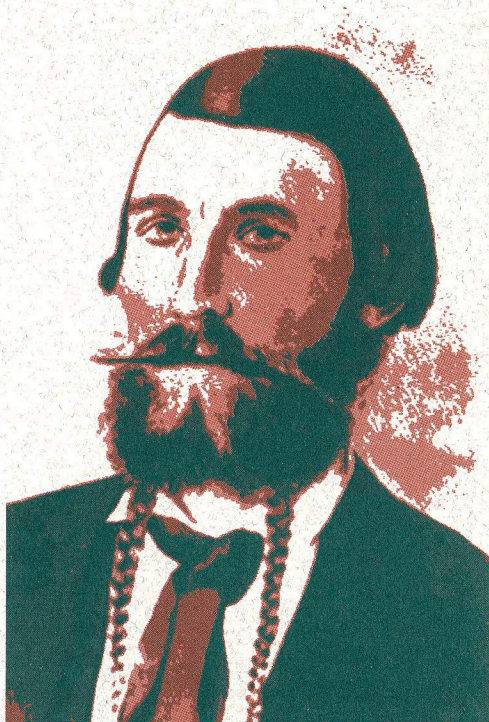
Through its New Urban University initiative, CU-Denver views its location in downtown Denver as a fertile ground for advancing knowledge, flowing freely between the campus and the urban community. CU-Denver seeks to link the teaching, research and service of its faculty to urban issues and needs of the state, the nation and the world.

The University of Colorado's College of Architecture and Planning and its Graduate School of Public Affairs are located at the Denver campus.



## AURARIA: WHERE DENVER BEGAN

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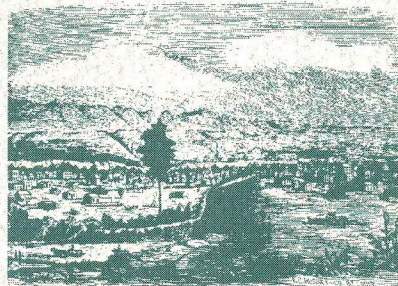


In July of 1858, prospectors William Greeneberry Russell and his brothers panned out seven ounces of gold worth \$200 along the South Platte. This small strike sparked the Pikes Peak Gold Rush, an influx of some 45,000 fortune seekers into “the Great American Desert.”

The Russells founded the township of Auraria City November 1, 1858 on the west bank of Cherry Creek, a favorite campground of the Arapaho Indians. The settlement was named after the Russells’ home town in Georgia, where the first major U.S. gold boom occurred in the 1830s. “Auraria” comes from the Latin word for gold.

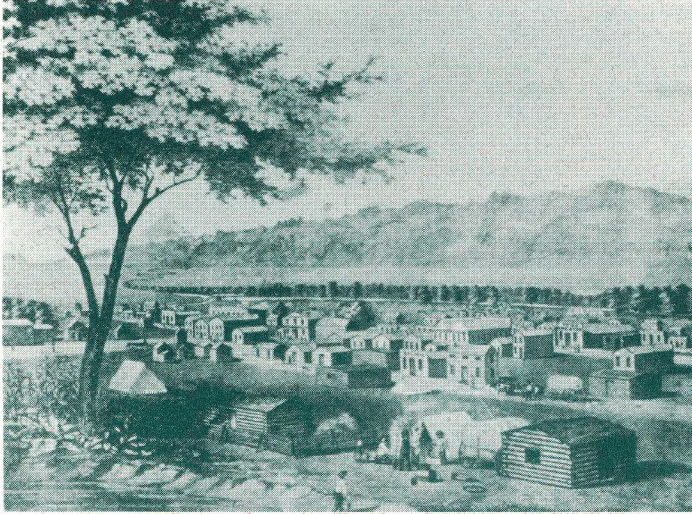
By the end of 1858, the settlement boasted fifty cabins. An intense rivalry soon developed with Denver, a rowdy neighbor established across Cherry Creek on November 22, 1858. Founded by the politically ambitious General William H. Larimer, who hoped to make his town the hub of the gold region, Denver City was named for Kansas Territorial Governor James W. Denver. Larimer then named the main street after himself. In 1859 journalist Albert D. Richardson described the dusty encampment as a conglomeration of 300 hewn pine log buildings whose 1,000 people were “a law unto themselves.”

Auraria was larger than Denver, establishing the first school, public house and carpenter’s shop. But the first stagecoach arrived instead in Denver circa 1859, securing Denver’s future position as the Queen



*William Greeneberry Russell, Auraria's founder, was an experienced miner from Georgia whose small strike sparked the Pikes Peak Gold Rush of 1859.*

AURARIA  
1860  
SOUTH OF CHERRY CREEK



City of the Rockies. The advent of the Civil War prompted the Russell brothers and many other Auraria pioneers from the South to leave Colorado to join the Confederacy.

*Rocky Mountain News* Editor William N. Byers continued to lobby for unification of the two settlements, a plan looked upon more favorably by General Larimer after the Auraria Town Company presented him with four lots. On the chilly, moonlit night of April 6, 1860, a ceremony on the Larimer Street Bridge united the two towns, and Auraria became west Denver.

*The old Tremont Hotel, once considered the most elegant establishment in town, was originally a temperance boarding house on 13th & Blake surrounded by 31 saloons. After the 1863 fire and four major Cherry Creek floods, damage in 1912 closed the hotel forever.*



## AURARIA'S ETHNIC COMMUNITIES AND THEIR LEGACY

8



*German bakeries and breweries were plentiful in turn of the century Auraria. Roederer's Bakery at 1022 Larimer St. made deliveries to local hotels, restaurants and saloons, and donated baked goods to the Franciscan monks and nuns from nearby St. Elizabeth's Church and school.*

### The German Settlers

#### **Campus Landmark: St. Elizabeth's Church**

Auraria housed many ethnic groups during the next century. Although original settlers were Scots-Irish and English, a large German population also immigrated to Denver in the 1860s, and many of these newcomers settled in Auraria. The industrious Germans, Denver's largest foreign-born group, were quite prosperous and influential in the city before World War I. Through their efforts, physical education was added to the curriculum of the Denver Public Schools, and German language, culture, and music flourished.

The church played a central role in the lives of German immigrants and other ethnic groups at

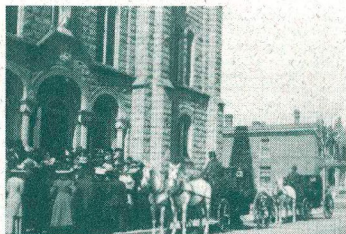
Auraria. The German Catholics soon founded their own parish and school which they named in honor of St. Elizabeth. In 1887 German-born Franciscan priests and brothers began fundraising for a new church building. This Gothic-Romanesque architectural beauty, dedicated in 1898, has been designated a Denver and National Register landmark.

St. Elizabeth's Church was built of rusticated rhyolite (lava stone) quarried at nearby Castle Rock, with an interior that fea-



tured massive oak doors, statues and woodwork carved in Germany, and six circular ceiling oil paintings. Thanks to the fund-raising Franciscans and the generosity of the German community, the church was completely debt-free by 1902.

One tragedy marred St. Elizabeth's tranquil history, occurring only ten years after the new church was built. In 1908 the new pastor, 40 year-old Father Leo Heinrichs, was shot and killed while



distributing communion at Sunday Mass. The assassin, an Italian socialist named Giuseppe Alia, was captured immediately. Although the shooting attracted national attention as rumors of a political plot spread, it became apparent after further investigation that Alia was mentally ill. The church was reconsecrated and a commemorative plaque mounted on the wall.

St. Elizabeth's remains an active Catholic parish, although the school and the convent were demolished to build the St. Francis Center, an elegant campus space for meetings and receptions.

### **Campus Landmark: The Tivoli Student Union**

In 1859, German-born Moritz Sigi opened Denver's second brewery on Tenth Street between Larimer and Market. Renamed the Colorado Brewery in 1966, Sigi's became a social center for the German community and the Turnverein, a German gymnastics society which is now Colorado's oldest active ethnic organization. Under the brewery's second owner, Max Melsheimer, the prominent mansard tower was constructed that still dominates the campus today. Designed by prominent architects Harold W. Baerreson and Frederick C. Eberly,

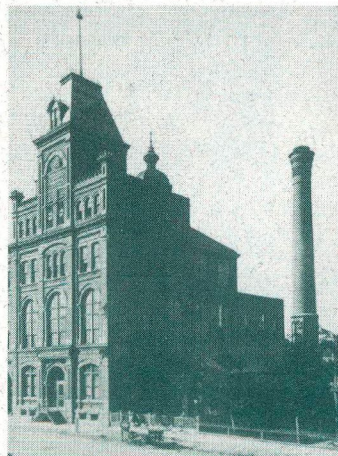
Tivoli included the Turnhalle Opera House, an elegant space for German opera and theater. In 1900 John Good bought the building and renamed it Tivoli, after the world famous gardens in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Tivoli prospered until the 1960s, when the 1965 South Platte flood and a subsequent labor strike forced closure on April 25, 1969. The building was slated for demolition in 1972, when the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission convinced City Council to landmark the structure. The Denver Urban Renewal Authority purchased Tivoli with the help of federal funds, and transferred the property to the Auraria Higher Education Center. Auraria leased Tivoli to a private developer, who restored the landmark building as a specialty shopping center in 1985.

In 1991, students at Auraria voted to assess themselves \$3 per semester to reacquire the building and remodel it as a combination student union/retail center. In 1994 the Tivoli Student Union reopened as one of the most unusual student unions in the country, housing student offices, services and organizations plus campus-oriented shops, restaurants, conference facilities, and movie theaters.



*The Tivoli was called the Milwaukee Brewery when this photograph was taken in 1896.*



## The Auraria Irish

Auraria's substantial Irish Catholic population originally attended services with the Germans at St. Elizabeth's, but cultural barriers and the emphasis on German language soon threatened to split the parish. The Irish petitioned for their own church, reportedly after brawls between Germans and Irish fighting over pews.

John K. Mullen, a millionaire milling mogul who got his start in the Auraria neighborhood, donated land at Tenth and Colfax for St. Leo the Great, the second Catholic church in the tiny Auraria community. The working-class parish experienced recurring financial difficulties despite a congregation of more than 2,500. In May, 1891, its pastor, community

leader Father William O'Ryan, had to raise \$11,200 to save the church from foreclosure. Mullen provided \$10,000, which was supplemented by Sunday collections.

In the 1920s immigrants from Mexico began moving into Auraria. Once again, cultural differences arose between two ethnic groups using the same church. In 1923 John K. Mullen helped finance the construction of St. Cajetan's for Auraria's Hispanic residents — the third Catholic Church in a six-block radius.

By 1965 most of the Irish families who had supported St. Leo's had moved out of the neighborhood and, of course, the Spanish-speaking Catholics had



*Madden's Wet Goods  
Pictured left to right:  
Bartender Michael Flaherty,  
Councilman Eugene Madden,  
Captain Ed Madden of the  
Denver Police Force,  
an unidentified Denver  
police detective,, and  
Mr. Carroll, bartender.*



*St. Leo the Great parish served Auraria's Irish Catholics from 1898 until 1965.*

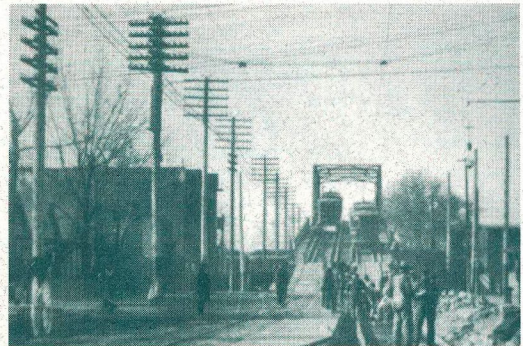
their own church. After three quarters of a century, St. Leo's was torn down just four years before historic preservation efforts associated with construction of the campus might have saved it.

Reverend Robert A. Banigan, St. Leo's last pastor, told the *Rocky Mountain News*, that "old age just caught up with St. Leo's." Perhaps the ethnic and social conflicts surrounding the church doomed it from the beginning because, as Father Banigan stated, "St. Leo's was built on a foundation of prejudice."

The Irish made important contributions to Auraria's history. John K. Mullen, a poor immigrant who became a millionaire, financially supported both St. Cajetan's and St. Leo's. Mullen, who came to the U.S. at age 14, got his first job at the Eagle Flour Mill on 8th & Curtis, owned by Charles W. Davis of 1068 Ninth Street. The enterprising Mullen bought his own mill in 1875, and ultimately built the Colorado Milling and Elevator Company, a corporate empire that spread throughout the West.

Eugene Madden, Auraria's city councilman from 1912 until 1941, lived for many years in a small duplex that now houses offices at 1047 Ninth Street Historic Park. In 1900 he opened Madden's Wet Goods, a saloon at 1140 Larimer Street which served as the social and political center of Auraria. Madden was an old-fashioned ward boss who regularly

walked the neighborhood kissing babies, giving candy to the ladies, and bringing coal to the needy. Recalled one old-timer, "You could call on him any time, night or day, about getting somebody out of jail or into a job".



*Streetcars in Old Auraria — Colfax Viaduct, early 1900s*

*1871 saw the beginning of the city's first public mass transit system, which was driven by horsecars. By 1886, Denver's first and the world's second electric cars went into operation. Complaints from shocked pedestrians who accidentally stepped on the slot in the street between the rails soon necessitated a return to the horsecar. The Denver Tramway converted to an all-electric rail system by 1900, when it controlled almost all lines.*

## The Jewish Community

### *Campus Landmark: Emmanuel Chapel*

Emmanuel Chapel is the city's oldest church structure. In 1859 Colonel Lewis N. Tappan built a non-denominational Sunday School on the site, conducted by Owen J. Goldrick, a silver-tongued journalist who was Denver's first schoolteacher. The flamboyant Professor Goldrick later opened a public school with 13 students whom he assessed \$3 per term and often collected in his wagon to make certain they got to school. Grateful Denverites elected him their first superintendent of schools in 1862, a post he filled for ten years.



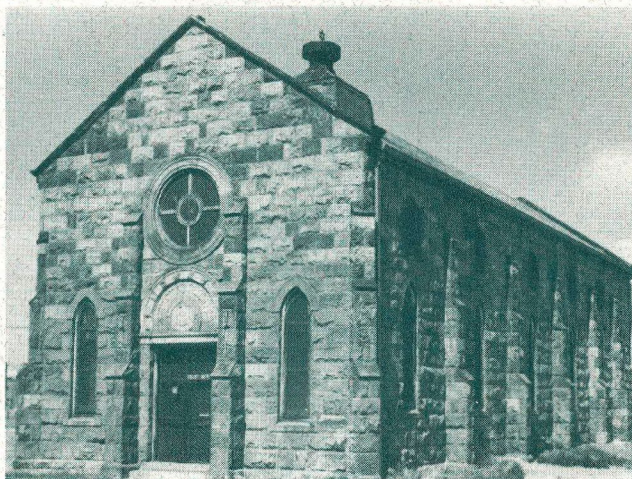
In 1874 the Sunday school site was purchased by Bishop John F. Spaulding for an Episcopalian chapel. A new stone building was constructed in 1876 with twelve-foot by eighteen-foot wall buttresses, a mixture of Romanesque and Gothic architectural styles. Originally, rose-colored stained glass windows enhanced

the front and back walls.

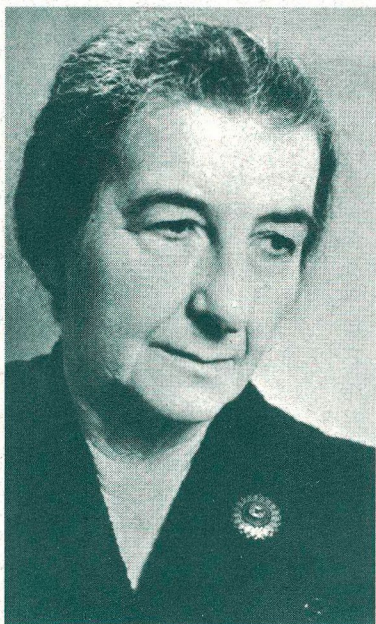
In 1903 members of the *Shmona Amunoh* Jewish congregation along with new Jewish immigrants to the Auraria neighborhood bought Emmanuel and formed the congregation *Shearith Israel* or Remnant of Israel. The interior was remodeled in the image of a traditional Orthodox synagogue. A balcony was also added to accommodate the Jewish women.

By the 1920s the Jewish population at Auraria began to decline and the synagogue was used primarily for the convenience of downtown businessmen. Regular services ceased in 1958 when the remaining congregation was unable to gather the required ten men for Saturday and holiday services. Later that year the synagogue was sold to artist Wolfgang Pogzeba for \$10,000. Emmanuel, which is a Denver and National Register landmark, now serves as an art gallery for student, faculty and community exhibits.

*In the 1960s Emmanuel served as an artist's studio. The building now functions as an interinstitutional art gallery.*







*Former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir spent quality time in Denver during her youth. Her Denver residence was moved to Auraria in the late 1980s.*

### ***Campus Landmark: The Golda Meir House***

The only remaining U.S. residence of former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, now a Denver landmark, was relocated to the Auraria Campus in 1988. The house is being restored for use as a museum, conference center, and the MSCD Golda Meir Center for Political Leadership.

The former prime minister was 13 when she ran away from home in Milwaukee to continue her education in Denver. Golda's parents were pushing her toward marriage, but she wanted to become a teacher. At the time, female teachers in Milwaukee were not allowed to marry.

She joined her sister Sheyna, a recovering consumptive, her brother in law Sam Korngold and their daughter Judith in a small duplex at 1608 Julian Street on Denver's Jewish west side. During this time, she worked at her brother in law's laundry, attended classes at North High School, and gained

deeper knowledge of Zionist philosophy that stressed the need for a Jewish homeland. As she said in her autobiography, "It was in Denver that my real education began."

The Golda Meir House was moved twice before being permanently relocated on the campus. The designated Denver landmark has been restored with the assistance of the Colorado Historical Fund, the Jewish community, and private contributors.



*First Lady Hillary Clinton and Governor Roy Romer at the Golda Meir house in 1996.*

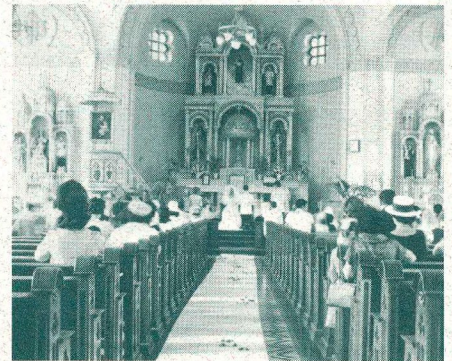
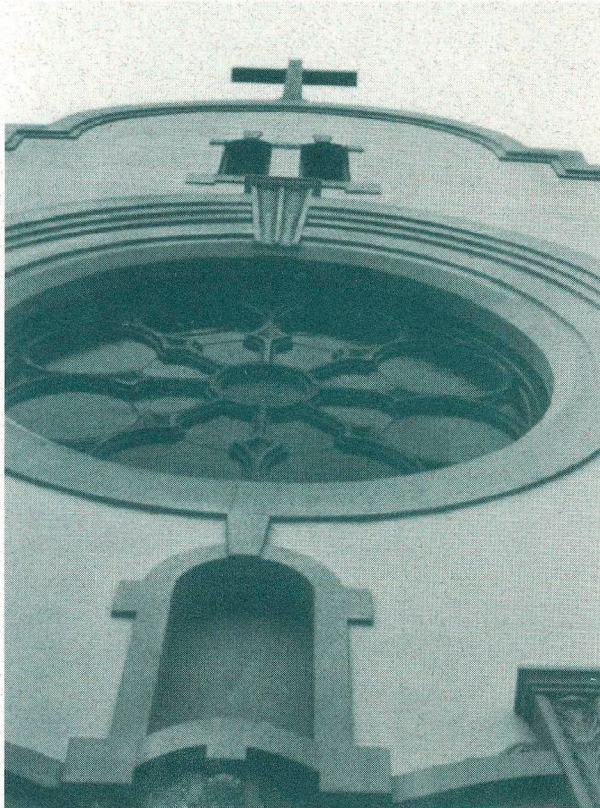
## Hispanic Auraria

### *Campus Landmark: St. Cajetan's Center*

To serve Hispanic Catholics, St. Cajetan's Church was constructed in 1925 on land donated by J.K. Mullen at Ninth St. and Lawrence. Now a Denver landmark, the brick and stone church is a mixture of mission-style and Spanish Colonial architecture with twin belltowers and elegant curvilinear parapets. Robert Willison, who also designed Denver landmarks such as the Denver Municipal Auditorium and St. Dominic's Catholic Church, was the primary architect. Many of the parishioners helped with construction, donating labor for carpentry, masonry and woodcarving.

Eventually St. Cajetan's came to include a grade school, convent, the Ave Maria Clinic and a credit union. Many of the buildings were designed by Temple Hoyne Buell, a regular visitor to the neighborhood's famous Mexican restaurant, the *Casa Mayan*.

St. Cajetan's parish served as both a spiritual and social center for the Hispanic community. Says former Auraria resident Magdalena Gallegos, "The lives of the Spanish-speaking people in Auraria revolved around their church. This was the place where they met weekly, made friends, and watched the children of other families grow."



*The lives of Auraria's Spanish-speaking people revolved around St. Cajetan's Church. Pictured: a wedding at St. Cajetan's in the 1950s.*



*The former Groussman Store was a vacated apartment building when Historic Denver began restoration efforts.*

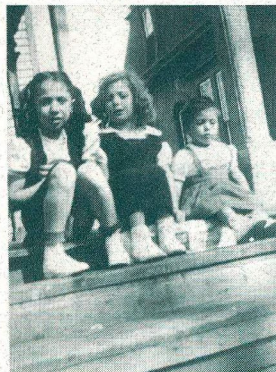
Over the decades, Auraria slowly changed from a residential area to an industrialized district. From 823 homes and apartments in 1940, the number dropped to 134 in 1968. In the late 1960s, Denver's prime era of urban renewal, the neighborhood was chosen as the future location for the new Auraria Higher Education Center. Although many long-time neighborhood residents protested, the City passed a \$6 million bond issue to help fund the Auraria renaissance in 1969.

Auraria residents were given funds for relocation, even if they were renters. Homeowners could be paid as much as \$15,000 over market value of their property, and tenants were eligible for up to \$4,000 in rent supplements as a down payment toward home ownership. For some, like Denver author John Dunning, this provided an unforeseen opportunity to purchase a first house. For others it meant leaving a neighborhood that had been home for generations.

In June 1975 the congregation moved from the old St. Cajetan's to a new church in southwest Denver. They took along the church bell, the circular stained glass windows above the front doors and for

some, memories of many happy years together. In the 1980s the Displaced Aurarians organization was founded by former residents, who occasionally hold neighborhood reunions on the campus.

St. Cajetan's now serves Auraria as a meeting and performance hall. From 1991 through 1995, the historic building received a major interior and exterior restoration. A major community event hosted by First Lady Hillary Clinton and Colorado Governor Roy Romer was held at the Center in 1996.



*Some families in Auraria's close-knit Hispanic community protested relocation. Today, scholarships are available for descendants of former residents.*

## Auraria Campus Chief Executives



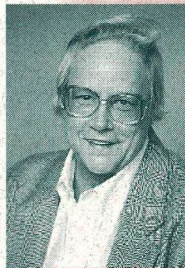
Byron  
McClenney  
*President*



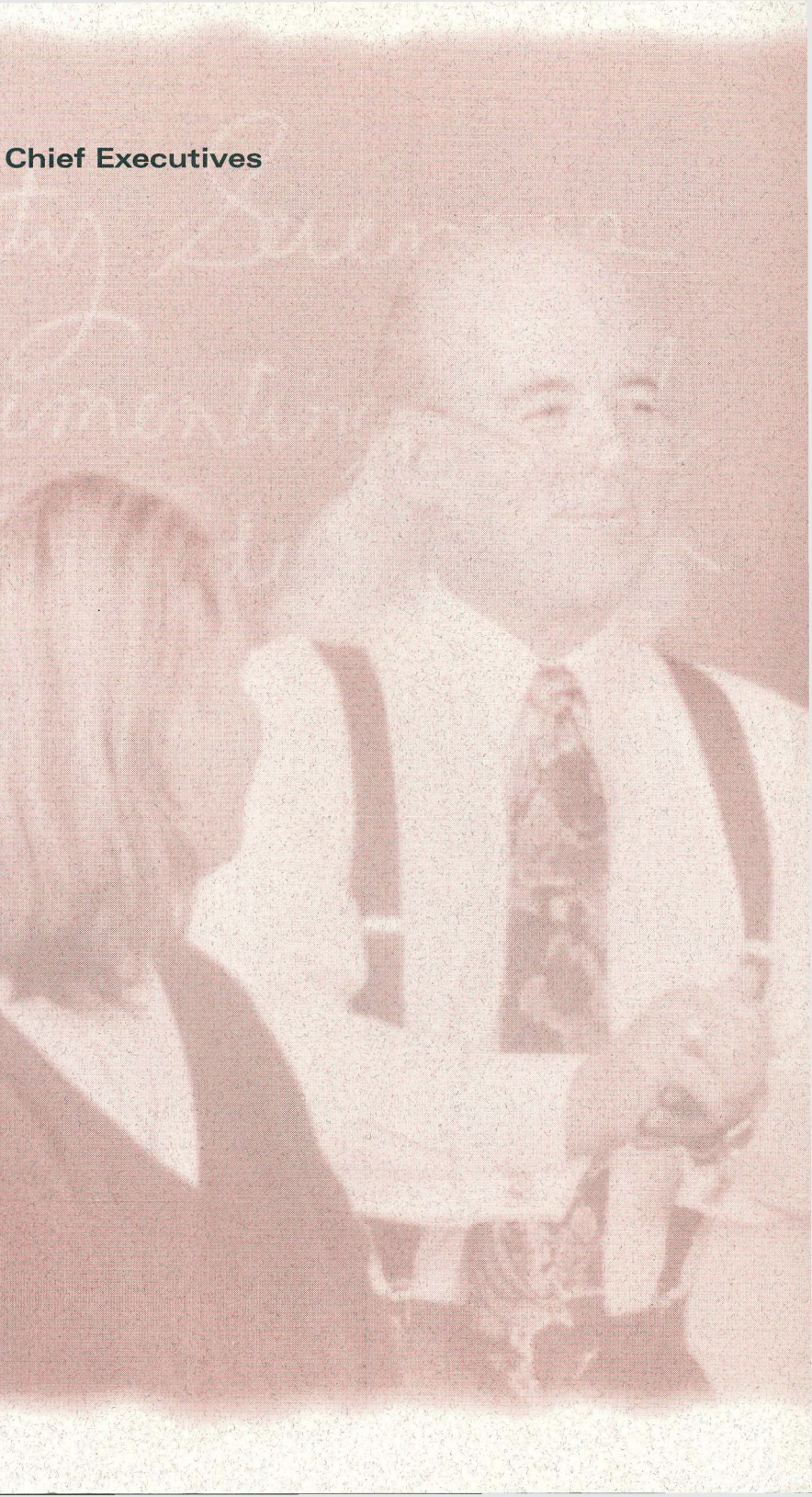
Sheila Kaplan  
*President*



Georgia  
Lesh-Laurie  
*Chancellor*



Dean Wolf  
*Executive Vice  
President for  
Administration*





Selena Dunham  
*Chair,  
Auraria Board  
of Directors*

## Auraria 20th Anniversary Facts

### Largest campus in the state

<b>Fall '96 Headcount:</b>	CCD	5,206
	MSCD	16,602
	CU-Denver	10,855
	<b>Total</b>	<b>32,763</b>

<b>Comparitive Count:</b>	CU-Boulder	24,622
	CSU	21,970
	UNC	10,306

**Total campus minority enrollment: 25%**

### Effective Space Utilization

Approximate on-campus assignable square footage per FTE (not including residence halls):

Auraria	62
CSU	182
CU-Boulder	173
UNC	151

### Cost Effective

Student fees and tuition for two semesters for full-time undergraduates during the '96-'97 Academic Year:

CCD	\$1529
MSCD	1942
CU-Denver	2181

**Auraria's 20th Anniversary Certificates and Degrees Awarded by CCD, MSCD and CU-Denver Since 1977:**

**73,296** (Figure provided by CCHE, 2/97)

## Sidebar: Ninth Street Historic Park

At the heart of the Campus, thirteen restored Victorian cottages and one turn-of-the-century grocery store serve as a picturesque reminder of the city's puppy days. The structures on Ninth Street Historic Park, built between 1872 and 1906, housed members of various Auraria ethnic groups over the years.



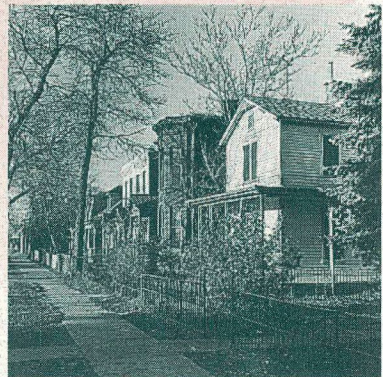
This is the oldest restored block of residences in the city, a project conceived and guided by preservationists Don and Carolyn Etter when the campus was built. Through the efforts of Historic Denver, Inc., Ninth Street houses were restored to serve as campus institutional offices.

The Park, which hosts thousands of visitors each year, incorporates a variety of architectural styles, ranging from Italianate and Second Empire to stick style. Reflecting middle class architecture of the late nineteenth century, Ninth Street Park is a delightful reminder that, in the words of Don Etter, "Auraria was the place where Denver began."

The oldest structure on the Park is 1020 Ninth Street, built in 1872. The green and white frame house was originally owned by William Smedley, a Quaker dentist who had a long and illustrious career in Denver. Restoration was completed with the help of his descendants. In 1947 Ramon and Carolina Gonzales opened the highly successful Casa Mayan restaurant in the house, where the entire city celebrated Hispanic culture with fine food and music. Photographic displays from both families can be viewed on the first floor of the house, which serves as a small conference center.

*During the 1940s, the former Smedley-Cole house served as the most popular Mexican restaurant in town — the Casa Mayan (above).*

*Ninth Street Park houses before renovation, when the Auraria neighborhood was still primarily a residential area.*





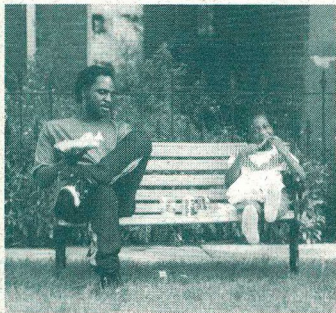
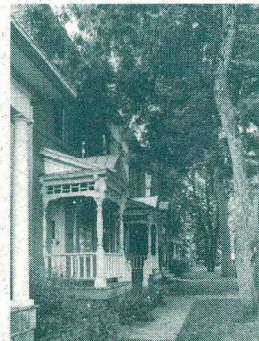
*Ninth Street Park today:  
an airy reminder that  
"Auraria was the place  
where Denver began."*

In his book, *Auraria, Where Denver Began*, Don Etter referred to the Knight House at 1015 Ninth Street as "the most perfectly proportioned and tastefully embellished Victorian house in Denver." The home was built by flour mill owner Charles

Davis, who lived across the street at 1068 Ninth Street, as a wedding present to his daughter Annie Kate and Stephen Knight in 1885. Built in the Second Em-

The only commercial building was originally the neighborhood grocery store. Now a campus restaurant, the Mercantile at 900 Curtis St was built in 1906 by Albert Groussman and his wife Belle, and designed by Frederick C. Eberley, who was also the Tivoli architect. The two-story red brick structure features a traditional plate glass storefront and globe finials that embellish the parapeted roof.

A self-guided walking tour of Ninth Street provides information on architecture and early residents of each structure.



pire style with a mansard roof and cupola with iron cresting, the structure enhances the east side of the Park.

# The Creation of the Auraria Campus



*The Tramway's central loop was located on Fifteenth and Lawrence, but the Denver Tramway Building and car barns were built in 1911 on Arapahoe between 13th and 14th. The latter structure served as classroom space and an administration building for CU-Denver from 1967 until 1988.*

The close of World War II saw dramatic population growth in the Denver area, accompanied by a post-War baby boom that would create an explosion in Colorado higher education twenty years later. The Front Range, the state's greatest population center, was notable for its lack of public higher education institutions, even though the majority of Colorado's private colleges were located close to the Denver metropolis.

In the early 1960s, few graduates from Denver high schools were enrolled in public or private colleges in the area. Options were practically non-existent for Denver residents who could not afford to leave home or needed a low-cost education that could be combined with work. With the notable excep-

tion of Denver's Emily Griffith Opportunity School, there was little chance to find vocational training for work opportunities outside the City of Denver.

By the 1950s, the inability of Colorado higher education institutions to accommodate vast numbers of prospective students anticipated by the mid-1960s became a prime concern of Colorado legislators. In 1958 a bipartisan initiative established the Legislative Committee on Education Beyond High School, which during the next seven years, under the leadership of Senator Roy McVicker and Representatives John G. Mackie and Roy Romer, did the first strategic planning and generated legislation that transformed the nature of higher education in Colorado.



Early in 1962, the Committee joined with the powerful legislative Joint Budget Committee to create a Task Group on Post High School Education in Colorado to determine what public-supported vocational, technical, and college post high school facilities were needed by the Denver metro community.

### *The Founding of Metropolitan State College*

In 1962 the Task Force recommended the establishment of a state-supported, four year degree-granting college, Metropolitan State College (later renamed Metropolitan State College of Denver). The new institution would be planned, developed and governed by the Trustees of State Colleges as a low-tuition school with no residence halls and an open door admission policy.

House Bill 349, introduced by Representative Palmer Burch, with Roy Romer as Senate co-sponsor, became law on May 5, 1963. After a two year delay, \$750,000 was approved by the legislature to begin operations. The college opened in rented buildings, welcoming 1,189 students in the fall of 1965.

Metro grew by more than 1,000 students a year, renting more and more space. Both Denver Mayor Tom Currihan's office and the downtown community had been searching for a permanent site for Metro even before it opened. In 1966 the Executive Committee of Downtown Denver Master Plan Committee recommended the Auraria neighborhood.

### *UCD Expansion Plans*

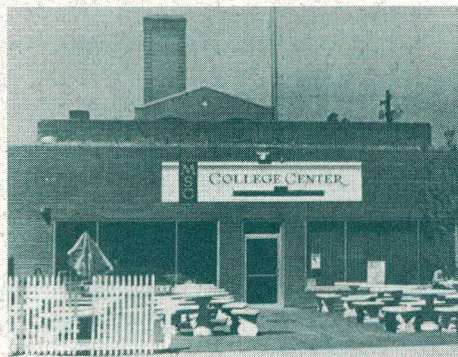
At the same time, the University of Colorado's Denver Extension Center was also lobbying for renovation and expansion of its downtown facilities. The University of Colorado's Department of Correspondence and Extension had begun offering courses in Denver in 1912, shuffling from building to building until it acquired a permanent home at 509 17th Street in 1939. A single faculty member ran the school with the help of part-time teachers.

In August 1956, the University Regents purchased and renovated the Denver Tramway Company

buildings, an eight story office tower and car barn built in 1911 on the northeast bank of Cherry Creek. In 1957 the Denver Center was authorized to grant graduate and undergraduate degrees and in 1973 it was renamed the Denver Campus of the University of Colorado. By the early 1970s both tower building and the former car barn needed extensive work. Says CU-Denver history professor Tom Noel, "I thought the Tramway was a wonderful old building. The elevator was slow, but most of the time it worked." Before the building was sold to a private developer in the early 1990s, Noel initiated its nomination for Denver landmark status.

### *Development of Community College of Denver*

The Community College of Denver was also looking for a home. CCD had opened the first of three Denver metro area campuses in 1968, North Campus at 62nd and Downing. In 1970 CCD-Central began holding classes at 11th and Acoma Streets in a former Kumpf Lincoln-Mercury Motor Showroom. The central administration building for the tri-institutional campus was temporarily located at 11th and Bannock. The school began serving a mix of students ranging from returning Viet Nam veterans, to older non-traditional students and homemakers.



*Metro's first student center was originally a paint store.*

## A NEW PLAN EMERGES

22

According to Frank Abbott, who was then executive director of the newly-formed Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHHE), "The idea for a higher education complex at the Auraria site grew out of the circumstances of the time — Metro State and the Community College of Denver were looking for a campus; there was a large tract of land, accessible from throughout the city, ripe for redevelopment and, on behalf of Metro, the City had advanced an application for urban renewal status. The land was, literally, across Speer Boulevard and Cherry Creek from the University's downtown center. That this site should become a possible location for all three institutions almost had to be recognized."

An important element of the plan was that the three would share resources — classrooms, a library, media, some student services and support services. Such an arrangement was working in the few other locations around the country where it had been tried, such as the Claremont Colleges in California.

Metro trustee Betty Naugle credits Abbott with the original idea for a tri-institutional campus. Abbott recalls being inspired while walking the mile from the CU extension building to MSC headquarters at the Forum Building. "It's the only way we're ever going to get HUD (Housing and Urban Development) to approve this thing," he later told the task force.

JBC Chair Joe Shoemaker, a key player in Auraria's fortunes, recalled that the enormous amount of money involved in serving the needs of all three schools made the issue "more of a JBC concern than an Education Committee concern." No one could expect the Legislature "to even entertain the idea of building campuses for all three...[this] would eliminate capital construction projects at all other schools for years to come."

### *Is it Feasible?*

The Auraria idea began to take hold as a practical solution to multiple institutional woes. CCHHE contracted for a Feasibility Study, soon undertaken by Lamar Kelsey and Associates, a prominent Colorado Springs architectural firm. Input from national experts in educational innovation was solicited, including President Louis T. Benzet of the Claremont Graduate School and University Center. On November 6, 1968, Kelsey's findings encouraged all parties involved to move forward.

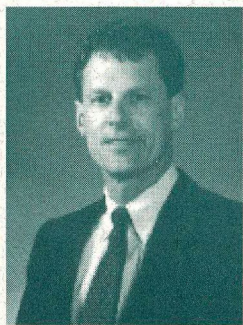
In January of 1969, the Department of Housing and Urban Development designated Auraria an urban renewal area. HUD set aside \$12.6 million of Model Cities funds for site acquisition and relocation costs, leaving \$11.6 million to be raised from Colorado sources for site costs. Shelby Harper, chair of the CCHHE, had announced earlier that the site for a single institution should come to the state without cost. The CCHHE now agreed that to create a tri-institutional campus, the city and state should provide the non-federal share of the funding.



Problems involved in putting three institutions together dominated early discussions of the Working Committee, which was composed of the chief executives and planning officers of the institutions, directors of the Denver Planning Office and Regional Council of Governments, and the executive director of the CCHHE. Subcommittees of the group brought together program administrators, faculty and students from the three schools to discuss common needs and possibilities of working together to meet them. According to Frank Abbott, this inter-institutional collaboration was positive for the most part, and continued throughout the planning and construction process.

## Early planning

The first director to head up the planning staff was Lawrence E. Hamilton, former administrator of institutional support activities for the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board, was to assist developer Lamar Kelsey in getting the master plan effort



started. He would work with Kelsey to identify qualified consultants in areas such as transportation and parking, library and instructional media, and utilities, and to allocate available funds and initiate contracts.

## Initial Funding

Hamilton also worked with the Downtown Denver Improvement Association and a Citizens for Auraria group to build support for the bond election in November 1969. That election would determine the City's ability to provide its share of the funds for acquisition of the urban renewal site. Despite opposition from the Hispanic community, city voters passed the bond issue 32,913 to 29,140.

The building of Auraria dislocated 155 families, 70 individuals and 237 businesses from the neighborhood around St. Cajetan's. This aspect of the project was intensely controversial. While the campus was viewed by many as a preferable alternative to "urban blight," the Hispanic West side felt otherwise.

"The relocation of the Auraria residents was a very sensitive issue," says Hamilton. "In some ways, the move was harder on businesses, many of which had been in the same location for years. Some of them never reopened, like Frank Karsh, who had a great printing business on Larimer Street for years. Before the bond election, he formed a group called Citizens for Efficient Education, which really had nothing to do with efficient education — it was an

anti-campus coalition of Auraria businesses."

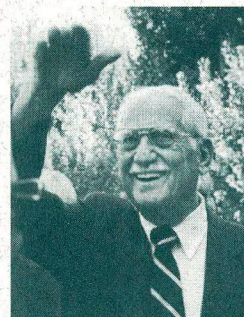
In the 1970 session, the Colorado legislature passed Senate Bill 67, which approved selection of the Auraria site with a \$1.9 million appropriation from the state to begin land acquisition and physical planning. The first Auraria Board of Directors was created in August 1971 by Governor John Love's Executive Order.

Three public members were appointed by the Governor, one of whom was Philip Milstein, director of the Downtown Denver Improvement Association. Milstein remained deeply involved with the campus from its inception until his death in 1992. Along with AHEC Executive Directors Jerry Wartgow, then James Schoemer, Milstein was largely responsible for creation of the Auraria Parkway and removal of Lawrence and Larimer Streets from the campus nearly 20 years later. Other community members were former CCHE Chair Shelby Harper and Max Morton of Petry Construction.

Also serving were institutional heads Leland B. Luchsinger, president of CCD, Joe J. Keen, vice president of the University of Colorado's Denver Center, and James D. Palmer, president of Metropolitan State College.

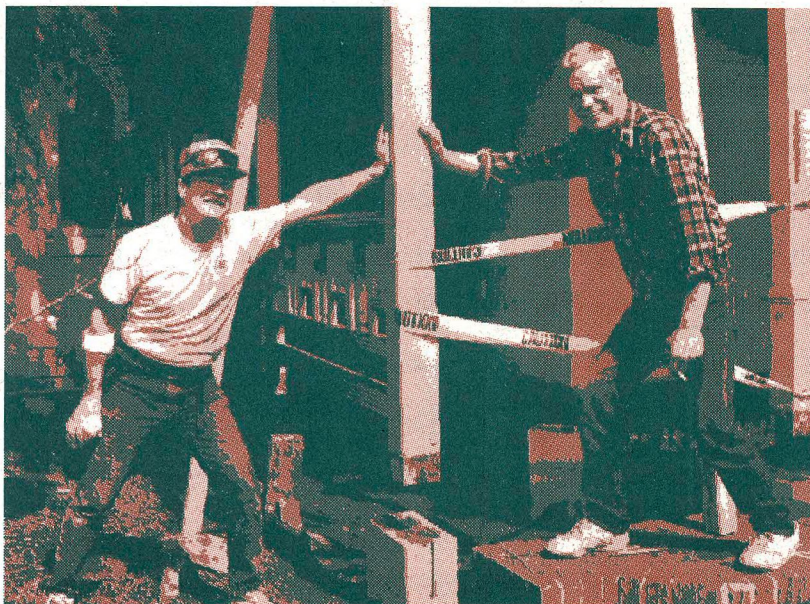
The three governing board members were Betty Naugle, Trustee of the State Colleges in Colorado, Richard W. Wright, State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education, and Joseph Coors, Board of Regents of the University of Colorado.

"The hardest part of the whole project," says Hamilton, "was getting the three institutions to work together and realize that we had a chance for excellence if we focused everything on one downtown campus. Sometimes it boiled down to the personalities of the leaders. When they meshed, things went smoothly, and when they didn't we had conflicts."



Left:  
Lawrence  
Hamilton,  
first Executive  
Director;  
Above:  
Philip Milstein

## AURARIA WILL HAPPEN



In the spring of 1972, the final hurdle was passed when JBC Chairman Joe Shoemaker sought and obtained agreement from the Committee that it was time to move on the Auraria project. The campus was to be built for not more than \$40 million — \$8 million less than the CCHE had requested, but still the largest capital construction appropriation in Colorado history.

### *Construction begins*

The choice for an Auraria director of planning and development was Jacques C. Brownson of Chicago, former chairman of the Department of Architecture at the University of Michigan and designer of the Chicago Civic Center. Brownson was intrigued by the challenges of the project — a limited budget, a shared campus, and a tight time frame. He was on the job full time by September 1972, and by late April 73 had updated and rounded

out a Master Plan for the site.

The plan was to accommodate 13,000 day full time equivalent students with a maximum of 15,000 day FTE (or 25,000 people) by 1980. The complex was to be built in three phases: 1) 200,000 sq. ft for CCD, 2) 400,000 sq. ft. for the library and a classroom lab building for MSCD, and 3) 270,000 sq. ft. to complete the campus for occupancy by 1976. Unfortunately, there was far less funding available for finishing touches — partitioning, carpentry, landscaping, painting, carpeting, floor tiling, and outdoor lighting than the institutions or anyone else desired.



## Ground Breaking

On October 4, 1973, a ground breaking ceremony for the first phase of construction drew some 200 people to the Auraria site for speeches and warm wishes from Governor John Vanderhoof, Senator Joseph Shoemaker, Denver Deputy Mayor Harold Cook, AHEC Board Chair Richard Wright and others involved in the Auraria initiative.

By early 1974, planning and construction were in full swing. Dan Paulien, Education Program Planner, worked with faculty, administrators and students in defining space requirements. He also worked with student committees to develop a joint student union that would include lounges, offices for student organizations, recreational facilities, food services and a book store, all to be funded through bonds that would be repaid through student fees and sales.

In the fall of 1974, the Board and the institutions determined the range of joint nonacademic programs to be administered centrally. At the Board meeting November 7, the Auraria's new Executive Director Floyd Stearns reported consensus that AHEC would assume responsibility for assignment and space scheduling, property inventory coordination, parking, central information services, mail, telephone, fire and safety protection, central stores inventory, and shipping, receiving and warehousing. MSCD would supervise athletic programs and UCD would manage the library.

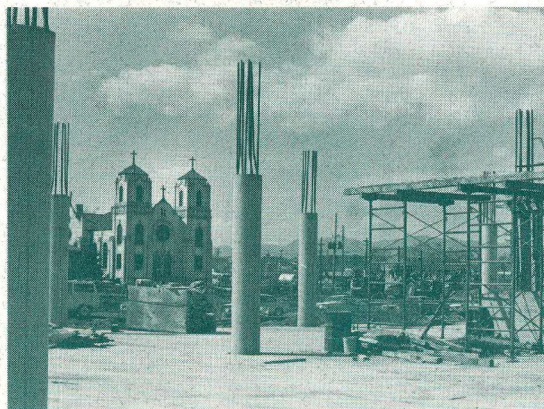
The first two buildings completed on the campus were the South Classroom and the Technology Building. The Community College of Denver faculty moved in December 1975, to be joined by the students in January of 1976 after the break. The *Denver Post* reported that the earliest occupants included three skeletons who were carefully maneuvered through mud and construction by protective faculty members — presumably biologists.

## Funding of Auraria

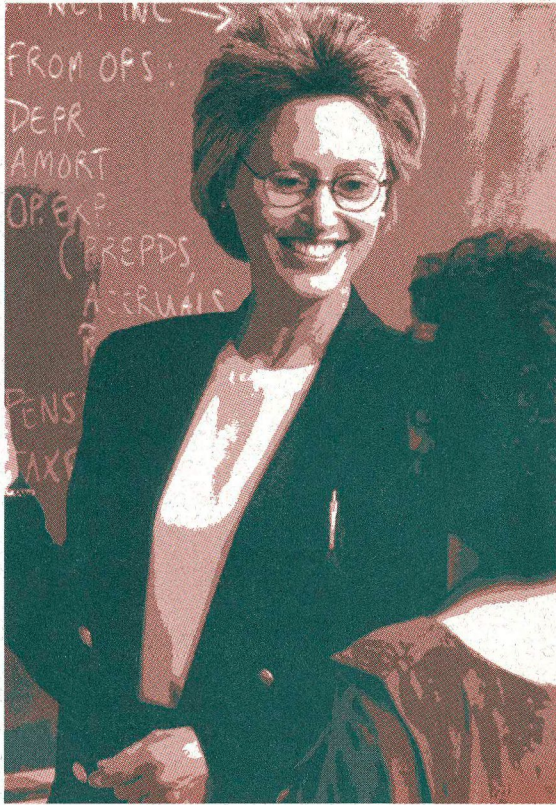
State Funding	\$45,396,000
Federal Urban Renewal Funds	22,214,000
City of Denver Bond Issue	6,000,000
Student Facilities Bonds	6,150,000
Parking Bonds	3,500,000
Private (through Historic Denver, Inc.)	900,000
Project Grants	
Economic Development Admn. (St. Cajetan's Renovation)	
National Endowment for the Arts (Landscape Planning)	
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (Ninth Street Park Landscaping)	
National Park Service (Ninth Street Park Renovation)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$84,672,000</b>

"We were a very cohesive group, like a small family," recalls CCD faculty member Helen Kleysteuber. "Everybody was in the same building, even the president. I remember the windows were upside down in the South Classroom... I think they still are. We had our first graduation in the sanctuary of St. Elizabeth's. The students loved it!"

From bid savings, the Board had an extra \$1.4 million for additional finishes, somewhat softening the "bare bones" image Auraria had acquired. A contingency of approximately \$325,000 was set aside for later installation of air conditioning.



## AURARIA OPENS



*"It isn't spiffy, and it isn't even finished yet. But come January, the Auraria Higher Education Center will be home for Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State College of Denver, and the University of Colorado at Denver. After more than seven years of turmoil about every possible issue, The Auraria Higher Education Center will finally be open for business."*

— *Denver Post*, November 14, 1976

The campus was formally dedicated on January 21, 1976 by Governor Richard D. Lamm and other state, city and educational leaders, even though it would be another year before Metropolitan State

College could move in. Frank Abbott reports that, "... there were some conspicuous absentees. Denver Urban Renewal Authority Director Bob Cameron and AHEC Director Floyd Stearns were in court, on opposite sides of the law suit AHEC had brought to force DURA to hand over the Tivoli. Jose Martinez, student body president, was outside with 20 sign carrying students, protesting a \$30 per academic quarter parking fee....Perhaps it was only appropriate that the official opening of the campus include a few symbols of the hurdles that had been faced at Auraria in the course of seven years of planning and construction."

### *No Housewarming Necessary*

The new campus was nothing if not controversial. When the \$5.5 million Library opened in July of 1976, the structure won an award for design by the American Institute of Architects. But the lack of air conditioning was noticeable in a building made up almost entirely of windows, especially in the middle of July. As internal temperatures climbed above 100 degrees, tempers rose accordingly. Sensitive materials on microfilm and microfiche had to be moved out of the "library from hell" for the summer lest they melt away. Because windows had to remain open, dust from nearby construction coated books and shelves. Local headlines made the cryptic comment that "Auraria Needs No Housewarming."

This abundance of hot air resulted from an order by Governor Vanderhoof during the 1973 energy panic forbidding the inclusion of air conditioning in state buildings. Library patrons and staff were not the only sufferers. In other campus buildings, laboratory animals passed to the great beyond and chemicals exploded from the heat. Ducts for air-conditioning were already in place so that belated installation was simple as funds became available. Even so, it took several years and the construction of two chiller plants in the 1980s before every campus building was comfortable during the summer.

## **Brick vs. Steel and Glass**

The Library was not only the visual focal point of the campus, it was the center of numerous debates about its design. Early planners had originally envisioned a “megacampus” of steel and glass surrounded by open space, a six to eight-story colossus that would stair-step toward the mountains. That idea was abandoned in favor of a series of two to three story buildings of modular design that could connect together like a set of Legos® as the campus grew. Campus architects maintained that, while initial costs would be greater, the walls could be moved with less cost in future years.

The Auraria Board and the institutional representatives favored brick instead, for aesthetic reasons and budgetary concerns, maintaining that the market for brick was more favorable. Since commitments had already been made for the Library, the board went ahead with plans that assured Auraria, for better or worse, at least one unique new building. When bids came in, however, the lowest was far over budget and steel was replaced by aluminum.

Fortunately, the lack of air conditioning or the aesthetic merits of the Library were no longer major issues in January of 1977 when MSCD joined the campus. Nor was the asphalt landscape and the sea of mud that arose every time it rained or snowed. Auraria was the best buy in Colorado, and the students kept coming. Spring enrollments in 1977 exceeded everyone’s expectations with a combined student headcount of 26,107. By fall, enrollments had risen to 26,709, which translated to 16,345 FTE students on a campus built to house a maximum of 15,000 FTE. It was just the beginning.

## **Auraria Comes of Age**

The setting has been enhanced considerably since Auraria made its debut twenty years ago. The new campus was an asphalt maze in 1977, with two major thoroughfares, Larimer and Lawrence Streets, funneling 34,000 cars a day through the campus core.

Despite physical limitations including a shortage of space, the campus succeeded beyond anyone’s expectations.

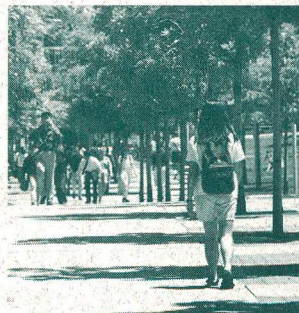
In the late 1980s the new Auraria Parkway re-routed Lawrence and Larimer traffic around the northwest perimeter of the campus. The streets could finally be removed and the campus geographically united. New landscaping, plazas and an oak-lined pedestrian mall replaced the freeways, producing a park-like setting. Extensive campus landscaping included gardens, shrubbery and nearly 3,000 trees.

In 1988, the new North Classroom building was constructed on Speer Blvd. and Larimer to replace CU-Denver’s ancient buildings across Cherry Creek. This brick and glass giant is the largest building ever constructed for higher education in Colorado.

The Creekfront Project at 14th & Larimer enhanced the link between Auraria and downtown in the early 1990s, with a Speer Boulevard pedestrian underpass and foot bridge over Cherry Creek. Landscaping, native sandstone accents and fountains have brightened the pedestrian connection between Auraria and Larimer Square.

*“When I walk over there, I see children with backpacks and people who have just come off their job, who economically are stretching themselves very hard to get an education. These people are very focused. This is the door to a good life for them, and they aren’t going to miss it.”*

— Governor Roy Romer  
*Rocky Mountain News,*  
January 26, 1997



**Auraria Board of Directors 1996-97**

Selena Dunham	Governor's Appt., Chair
Betty Miller	Governor's Appt.
Manuel Martinez	Governor's Appt.
George Brantley	Governor's Appt.
Julianne Haefeli	SBCCOE Appt.
Susan Kirk	Regents Appt.
Sheila Kaplan	President, MSCD
Byron McClenney	President, CCD
Georgia Lesh Laurie	Chancellor, CU-Denver
Helen Kleysteuber	Faculty Rep., CCD
April Cruz-Hernanz	Student Rep., SACAB

**Past Chairs of the Auraria Board of Directors**

5/70	Kenneth Phillips
9/72	Richard Wright
6/75	Philip Milstein
6/77	Dean Punke
6/80	Bishop George Evans
6/182	Lawrence Hamilton
6/86	Donald Bain
6//90	Betty Miller
6/93	King Trimble
6/95	Manuel Martinez
8/96	Selena Dunham

**Auraria Higher Education Center Executive Directors**

(title changed to Executive Vice President for Administration in 1990)

9/69-5/74	Lawrence Hamilton
5/74-6/78	Floyd Stearns
9/78-10/86	Jerome Wartgow
2/87-12/88	Morgan Smith
12/88-9/90	James Schoemer
12/90-8/95	JoAnn Soker
8/95-5/96	Dean Wolf, Acting EVPA
5/96-Present	Dean Wolf

**Auraria Chief Executives****CU-Denver Chancellors**

8/73-1/80	Harold Haak
1/80-6/80	William Jenkins, Acting Chancellor
6/80-12/80	Dwayne Nuzum, Acting Chancellor
12/80-1/85	Gene Nordby
2/85-12/85	Dwayne Nuzum, Acting Chancellor
1/86-9/88	Glendon Drake
9/88-11/95	John Buechner
11/95-2/97	Georgia Lesh-Laurie, Interim Chancellor
2/97-Present	Georgia Lesh-Laurie

**Metropolitan State College Presidents**

9/71-8/78	James Palmer
9/78-5/79	Richard Netzel
5/79-8/81	Donald MacIntyre
8/81-6/82	Curtis Wright, Acting President
7/82-4/84	Richard Fontera (passed away)
3/84-6/84	Richard Laughlin (assumed duties)
6/84-2/85	Brage Golding, Acting President
2/85-6/87	Paul Magelli
6/87-6/88	William Fulkerson, Interim President
6/88-9/93	Thomas Brewer
9/93-Present	Sheila Kaplan

**Community College of Denver Presidents**

1976-1977	Nai-Kwang Chang, Acting President
1977-1981	Thomas Gonzales
1981-1985	Myer Titus
1986-Present	Byron McClenney



## Recent Auraria Milestones

### January 1983

Auraria Foundation purchases the St. Francis Center, adding event space and conference facilities to the campus resources.

### January 1988

North Classroom building opens. With 257,000 sq. ft., this is the largest classroom ever constructed for higher education in Colorado.

### September 1988

The only remaining U.S. residence of Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir is moved to the Auraria Campus.

### December 1988

Auraria Parkway opens and major thoroughfares Lawrence and Larimer close. Construction begins on the Lawrence Mall, as does a major campus landscaping project and parking lot reconfiguration. Nearly 3,000 trees are planted within the next two years.

### January 1991

Auraria Parking Garage opens, providing 1725 new badly needed parking spaces for the commuter campus.

### April 1991

Students at Auraria vote to reacquire the Tivoli, a historic brewery restored by a private developer in 1985. Tivoli is renovated to combine student union and retail functions, providing the campus with one of the most elegant student unions in the country.

### August 1994

Tivoli opens as student union for CCD, MSCD and CU-Denver

### August 1995

Seventh Street Classroom, a remodeled office and warehouse complex opens to accommodate MSCD's World Indoor Airport, and CCD Environmental Technology programs. Johnson Controls, a national leader in HVAC control systems, retrofits the building at considerable savings.

### August 1996

Auraria's former student union, renamed the Plaza Building, opens as a classroom and office complex, adding 120,000 gross square feet of badly needed space to the campus.

## Institutional Milestones

### CU-Denver

#### August 1994

CU-Denver introduces the New Urban University Initiative — A major effort designed to connect CU-Denver with the community and integrate faculty teaching and research with service.

#### August 1996

Founding of the Bard Center for Entrepreneurship, a \$1.5 million gift to the CU-Denver to establish the Center as a world renowned program in entrepreneurship.

#### 1996

CU-Denver's international student population grows in three years from only a handful to nearly 300 students from more than 40 countries.

### Metropolitan State College of Denver

#### May 1965

Governor Love signs the state long bill, providing for \$750,000 to begin classes in the fall. Dr. Harlan Bryant, president of Western State College in Gunnison, becomes the first acting president in history to operate out of borrowed office space under the gold dome of the State Capitol.

#### 1990

Metropolitan State College adds "Denver" to its name, becoming MSCD.

#### 1996

MSCD is named the largest 4-year college in the United States by the National Center for Education Statistics in the U.S. Department of Education.

### Community College of Denver

#### 1988

CCD is the first institution of higher education to offer guarantees of transfer and job competency to students and employers

#### 1995

CCD becomes the leading point of access for first-time enrollees from the City and County of Denver.

#### May 1996

CCD is named one of the top six United States community colleges by the League for Innovation in Community Colleges.

## **AHEC Beginnings: Origins of the Auraria Higher Education Center** **A Chronology, 1963-1976** compiled by Frank Abbott

### **February 1963**

Task Group on Post High School Education in the Denver Metropolitan Area recommends that Metropolitan State College be established.

### **May 1964**

House Bill 349 creating Metropolitan State College is signed into law by Governor John A. Love.

### **December 1964**

Association of State Institutions of Higher Education in Colorado publishes its "Blueprint" — *A Program for the Development and Coordination of Higher Education in Colorado, 1963-1970*.

### **May 1965**

Metropolitan State College is funded to open as a two-year college in Fall 1965.

### **June 1965**

Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) is created with signature of House Bill 1170 by Governor John A. Love.

### **Fall 1965**

Metropolitan State College opens with 1,189 freshman students.

### **December 1966**

CCHE releases statewide higher education plan, *Strengthening Higher Education in Colorado*, recommends state community college system and a four-year Metro State College.

### **March 1967**

Legislature authorizes a three-campus Community College of Denver, a new state Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education, and adding third and fourth years of instruction at Metropolitan State College.

### **February 1968**

Trustees of the State Colleges approve Auraria as site for Metro State.

### **March 1968**

CCHE approves Auraria site for MSC provided site is made available at no cost to the state.

### **July 1968**

CCHE Director presents the Commission's Denver Subcommittee an idea for an "educational park," comprising several higher education institutions at the Auraria site.

### **Fall 1968**

Community College of Denver (CCD) opens first of its three campuses, in Adams County.

### **August 1968**

CCHE's Denver Area Council on Higher Education endorses study of the idea of clustering several institutions on Auraria site. Council appoints "Working Committee" representing involved institutions and Commission to conduct study.

### **September 1968**

CCHE announces Auraria idea publicly. Employs Lamar Kelsey and Associates for study of feasibility.

### **November 1968**

Kelsey reports that Auraria site can accommodate higher education center.

### **January 1969**

U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approves Urban Renewal status for Auraria site and allocates \$12.6 million as capital grant reservation. CCHE rescinds its March 1968 stipulation that Auraria site must be provided without cost to the state. Working Committee establishes representative committees to study collaboration on library, student services, physical education, and other programs and services.

### **May 1969**

Legislature appropriates \$225,000 to support Auraria planning, but with reservations showing legislature is not committed to a higher education center at Auraria.

### **September 1969**

CCHE obtains federal grant for Auraria planning, Lawrence E. Hamilton named Director of the Auraria project.

### **November 1969**

Denver citizens vote charter amendment for \$6 million bond issue for city share of cost of Auraria site.

### **December 1969**

Working Committee creates Committee on Community Involvement, responding to opposition arising on Denver's predominantly Hispanic West Side.

### **January 1970**

Governor Love endorses Auraria Higher Education Center proposal in his State of the State message.

## February 1970

Auraria businessmen file suit alleging Denver bond vote illegal.

## April 1970

Governor signs \$1.943 million appropriation — \$1.4 million toward Auraria land cost and \$ .543 million for physical planning for Metropolitan State College, apparently representing a state commitment for Auraria Center.

## May 1970

Working Committee and institution governing boards establish the Interim Policy Board (IPB) comprising institutional executives, governing board and CCHE representatives, to take charge of Auraria planning.

## June 1970

More, Combs and Burch hired to do program plan for shared facilities.

## November 1970

Consultant Chester Alter recommends Auraria Center and its governing body be established by legislation.

## April 1971

Appropriations bill provides token \$ 100,000 for Auraria planning vs. \$1.1 million request.

## July 1971

Interplan contracted for an "Integrated Program Plan" to reconcile each institution's space requirements with plans for sharing facilities.

## August 1971

Governor Love establishes Auraria Board of Directors by Executive Order.

## February 1972

Auraria presidents announce their plan for three-institution collaboration at the Higher Education Center.

## April/May 1972

Joint Budget Committee includes \$39.9 for construction of entire Auraria Higher Education Center in Long Appropriation bill.

## June 1972

AHEC Board discusses approach to planning and construction task.

## July 1972

Auraria Board issues RFP for project management proposals.

## August 1972

Board hires Jacques C. Brownson as Director of Planning and Development, authorizes contract with him as project manager.

## February 1973

Rep. Austin Moore introduces bill to rescind Auraria construction appropriation.

## March 1973

CCHE authorizes contract with Historic Denver, Inc., to restore Victorian homes on 9th Street for ultimate conveyance to the state. The three institution chief executives formalize the weekly meetings of the "Auraria Institutional Executives Committee," soon adding Auraria staff director.

## May 1973

Auraria Board approves plan presented by Brownson for development of the Auraria site. Ground-breaking scheduled for October 4, 1973.

## June 1973

Austin Moore bill to rescind Auraria construction appropriation is killed by one vote. After four years, Larry Hamilton resigns as Auraria staff director.

## September 1973

Brownson presents to CCHE a program plan for Phase I construction and a proposed supplemental appropriation, triggering press reports of huge cost increases. Media reaction leads to a crisis in relations with the Joint Budget Committee which is fully resolved by an Auraria Board presentation to JBC one week later.

## October 4, 1973

Auraria ground-breaking ceremony.

## November 1973

Floyd K. Stearns becomes Executive Director, AHEC.

## May 13, 1974

House Bill 1163 "Concerning the Establishment of the Auraria Board of Directors" is signed by Governor Vanderhoof, providing a statutory governance system for the Higher Education Center.

## April 1975

Supplemental appropriation of \$3.9 million for construction is approved by Governor.

## December 1975

AHEC Board takes DURA to court to force approval of contract for redevelopment of Tivoli.

## December 1975–January 1976

CCD faculty occupies buildings on Auraria site, followed by CCD students at end of holiday break.

## January 21, 1976

Auraria campus is formally dedicated.

## July 1976

AHEC Board reallocates \$1,540,000 from bid savings for building finishes and other finish work.

## December 1976–January 1977

Metropolitan State College faculty occupies buildings on Auraria site, students from all three institutions are on site after the holiday break

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For those interested in further reading, materials in the text have been collected from the following sources:

### **Auraria Town Company**

Records of the Auraria Town Company  
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### **Abbott, Frank**

*Origins of the Auraria Higher Education Center*, 1996

### **Coel, Margaret; Barker, Jane; Gilleland, Karen**

*The Tivoli, Bavaria in the Rockies*, 1985

### **Etter, Don**

*Auraria, Where Denver Began*, 1972

### **Gallegos-Mitchell, Magdalena**

"The Forgotten Community,"  
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### **Milstein, Philip**

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### **Richardson, Albert D.**

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*Churches of Auraria*, 1994  
*Ninth Street Historic Park*, Revised 1997

### *The Rocky Mountain News*

### *The Denver Post*

Information was also provided by the Public Relations offices of Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State College of Denver and University of Colorado at Denver

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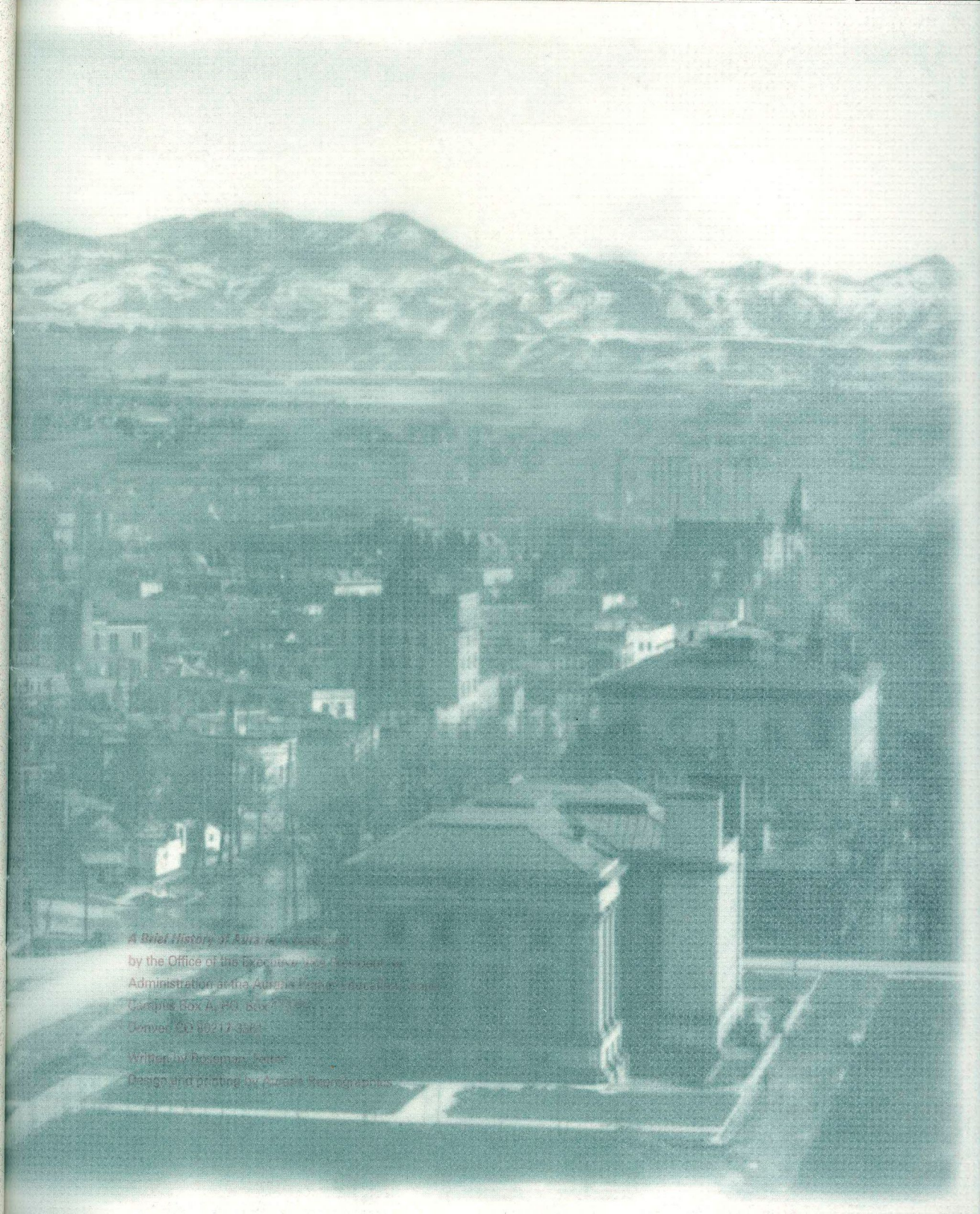
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*The Tivoli  
Student Union*





*A Brief History of Aurora, Colorado*  
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