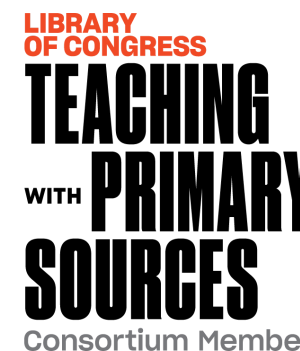


1. Title / Content Area:	Wall Street of the West
2. Historic Site:	Colorado National Bank
3. Episode	Wall Street of the West
4. Developed by:	Century Middle School Team, Adams 12 Five Star School District Michelle Pearson, Adams 12 Five Star Schools Estella Cole, Architect and Historic Preservationist
5. Grade Level and Standards:	<p><i>Grade Level: 3-5</i></p> <p>Content in this Document Based Question (DBQ) link to Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Colorado Academic Standards <i>Prepared Graduate Competencies: 1, 2, and 4</i></p> <p>Colorado Standards: 3rd: History Standard 1 GLE 2. 4th: History Standard 1 GLE 2.. 5th: Geography Standard 2 GLE 2</p> <p><i>C3 Standards in Social Studies:</i> D2.Geo.2.3-5. D2.Geo.4.3-5. D2.Geo.5.3-5. D2.His.2.3-5. D2.His.3.3-5.</p>
6. Assessment Question:	How does a building reflect the importance of a business and a city?
7. Contextual Paragraph	As stated in the book <i>Historic Denver Landmarks for Children and Families</i> , the 17th Street corridor of Denver, also termed the “Wall Street of the West,” is a glimpse into an era of economic growth and development in downtown Denver between the late 1800’s and the early 1900’s. After the arrival of the railroad connection and spur, to connect Cheyenne, Wyoming to Denver, the city moved from a city facing stagnation in growth to a fast growing city in the late 1800’s. Investors and businessmen started to construct buildings that represented something more



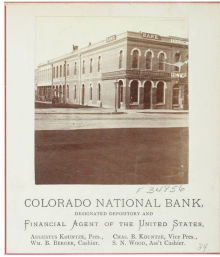
	<p>permanent using materials that reflected the permanence of a city that wanted to be, and remain important, in the future. With Union Station placed at one end of the corridor and the Brown Palace Hotel being situated at the other end of the long street, <i>“city planners had businesses clamoring to be part of the corridor which would later hold hotels, offices, insurance firms, financial investment companies, and banks. 17th Street was the location of choice for progressive businesses looking to cash in on Denver’s growth.”</i></p> <p>Today, restored and repurposed buildings still reflect the importance of this era and many of the original key buildings such as the Colorado National Bank, Union Station, the Brown Palace, and Hotel Monaco are still present and being used by residents of Colorado and visitors alike. Arched hallways, marble floors and fixtures, stained glass windows, brass and other decorative elements continue to reflect the era in which these buildings were constructed and the intent for these buildings to represent the movement of Denver from a “rag tag mining town” to the “Queen City of the Plains.”</p>	
8. Connection to Historic Preservation	<p>The buildings in this lesson represent many of the important buildings on the impressive 17th Street Corridor, but do not represent all that are important. The corridor continues to remain one of the most important streets in the city of Denver and the city has maintained great efforts to encourage preservation of these important buildings. Many of the buildings in this corridor are listed in the National Register of Historic Places including the Colorado National Bank which was entered into the register on April 27, 2010.</p> <p>Today, although many of the buildings have been restored and repurposed for contemporary use, they still maintain the architecture and many of the features which helped to ensure Denver would be remembered by visitors as “more than a mining town.” Colorado National Bank is no different. Now a Marriott brand hotel, the restored interior lobby is considered today to still be one of the most beautiful lobbies in the west, if not in the country.</p> <p>In 1915, George Berger, Sr. began construction of the bank building at the corner of</p>	

	<p>17th and Champa, and brought on the firm of William Fisher and Arthur Addison Fisher (his brother) to design the original building. An addition to the building was added in 1925 by the firm of Burnham Hoyt and Merrill Hoyt which kept with the clean lines of the original building and added upper floors. In the 1960's John Rogers and Jerome Nagel were retained to build an addition containing another 8 floors that was architecturally sensitive to the original structure. After this completion the building remained the same until the bank decided to add an office tower on the adjacent lot. Designed by Minoru Yamasaka and Associates, it was finished in 1975 and was 26 stories and completed in the Formalist style. Its facade is white marble with tinted glass.</p>	
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Document Based Question (DBQ)

Document Set

Colorado National Bank Building

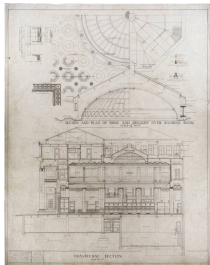


GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Colorado National Bank was one of the earliest banks established by the Kountz brothers in Denver. Why do you suppose they were interested in establishing a bank in this city?
2. Look closely at the image of one of the original Colorado National Bank buildings. What features make this building look important?
3. Why would it be important for a bank to have a well established, important looking building?

<https://digital.denverlibrary.org/digital/collection/p15330coll22/id/26715/>

Colorado National Bank Plans

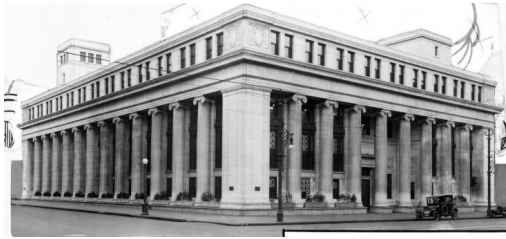


GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Examine the plans of the building. What shapes do you see in the plans?
2. Why would an architect want a skylight in a building during the early 20th century?
3. Why would an architect put a dome in a building when it cost more to make than a flat ceiling?

<https://digital.denverlibrary.org/digital/collection/p15330coll22/id/83739/rec/23>

Colorado National Bank Building Exterior



[Colorado Experience Episode](#): 7:15

and

<https://digital.denverlibrary.org/digital/collection/p15330coll22/id/32381/rec/5>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Based on the show, what caused the bank to move to the location on 17th and Champa Street?
2. In the show, Mr. Turner mentions that the larger building on 17th was designed in a very specific way. Describe what the exterior of the building looks like and how this makes it look important.
3. How did the design of this building represent other important buildings on the East Coast of the United States?

Colorado National Bank Building Interior



[Colorado Experience Episode](#)

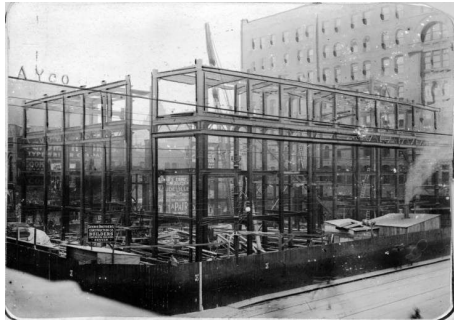
and

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/historicdenver/3727828>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why would the interior of the building be important to both the owner and the customer of the bank?
2. How does this interior design make a customer feel special when they visit the bank?
3. Can the interior of a building help a customer trust a business? Why or why not?

Industrial Revolution and Skyscrapers



<https://digital.denverlibrary.org/digital/collection/p15330coll22/id/32379/rec/4>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What was happening at the turn of the century that allowed the design of skyscrapers to develop?
2. What was the key element needed in building these tall buildings?
3. In this image of the construction of the building, what could also be seen today?
4. What would probably not be present today in the construction of a skyscraper?
5. How could an important building such as this show that Denver was an important city?

Allen Tupper True



<https://www.cpr.org/show-segment/historic-allen-true-murals-centerpiece-of-new-downtown-denver-hotel/>

and
Colorado Experience Episode:

9:58- 15:10

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why would a bank want to paint murals inside of the building?
2. What do the murals inside the Colorado National Bank Building depict?
3. Why are they different from most murals painted before this time period?
4. How do the murals honor the history of the past and make the bank look important?
5. How could murals and paintings such as this attract important customers?

Assessment Question
How does a building reflect the importance of a business and a city?
Response