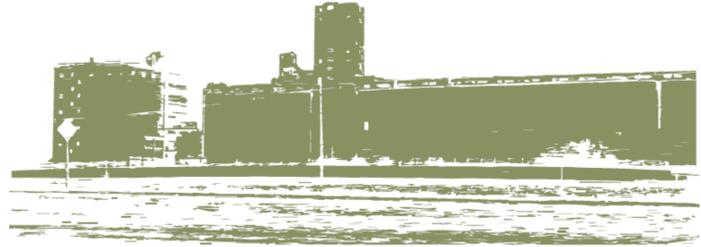


HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

The Commerce City Story



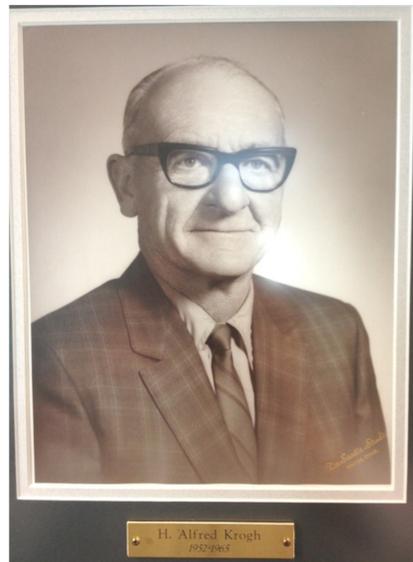
COMMERCE CITY Historic Preservation Plan

THE WWII YEARS:

- IN 1942 THE US ARMY ACQUIRED 17,000 ACRES FROM PROPERTY OWNERS TO CREATE THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL. THE ARMY MANUFACTURED CHEMICAL WEAPONS AT THE SITE DURING THE WAR.
- AFTER THE WAR THE SITE WAS LEASED TO PRIVATE PESTICIDE MANUFACTURERS UNTIL 1982. IN 1992, THE US CONGRESS PASSED LEGISLATION THAT STIPULATED IT WOULD BECOME A WILDLIFE REFUGE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AFTER MITIGATION.

THE CITY

- WITH THE THREAT OF DENVER'S EXPANSION NORTH AND EAST THE PEOPLE OF ADAMS CITY AND ROSE HILL VOTED TO INCORPORATE AS COMMERCE TOWN IN 1952 RATHER THAN BECOME PART OF DENVER.
- BY 1962, COMMERCE TOWN HAD ANNEXED THE AREA KNOWN AS DERBY AND CHANGED ITS NAME TO COMMERCE CITY.
- TO ENSURE COMMERCE CITY WOULD DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY, THE HOME RULE CHARTER WAS ADOPTED IN 1970.



INDUSTRY

- THE NORTHEAST METRO AREA HAS AN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE.
- THE ORIGINAL COMMUNITIES OF COMMERCE CITY WERE LARGELY BASED ON INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT.
- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARSENAL AND LATER THE CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING ON THE ARSENAL FURTHER ENTRENCHED INDUSTRIAL USES IN COMMERCE CITY.
- COMMERCE CITY HAS ALWAYS EMBRACED ITS INDUSTRIAL ROOTS, WHICH IS REFLECTED IN THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT THAT EXISTS TODAY.

