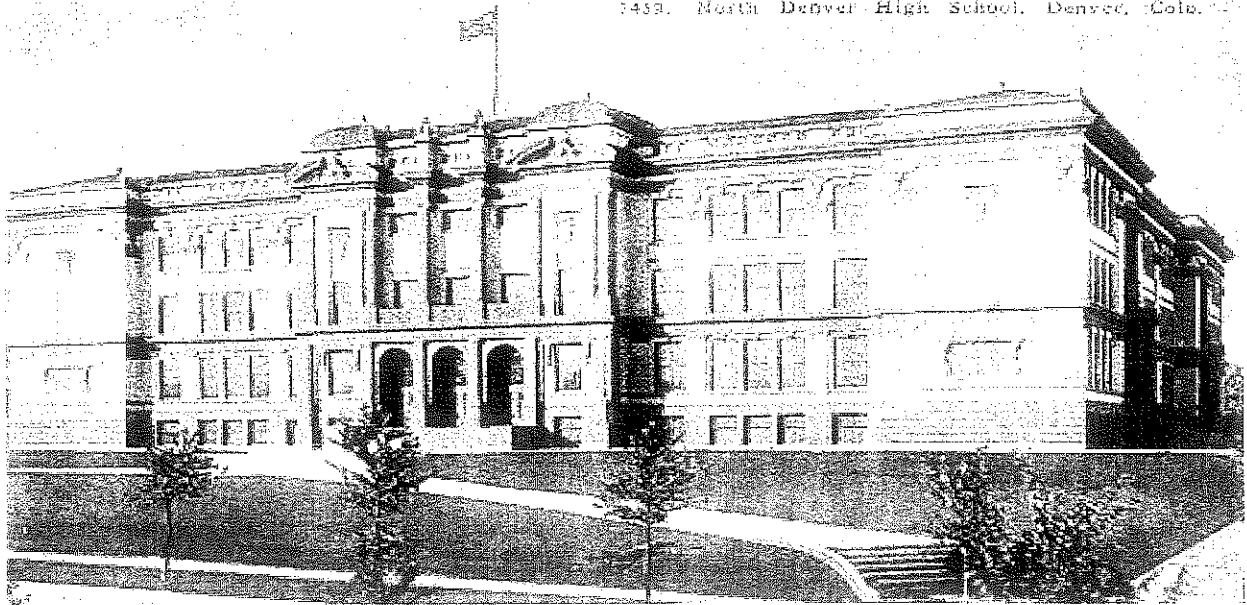


# North High School

1439. North Denver High School, Denver, Colo.



by Ruth Eloise Wiberg

To the uninitiated passerby this imposing building on North Speer Boulevard at Eliot Street might be a palace transplanted from 18th century Europe: but to thousands of others it is their alma mater, growing dearer with the years. This building has withstood not only the onslaught of thousands of students since it was opened in 1912 but also the addition of new sections, threats of demolition, and a complete remodeling.

North Denver High School actually was started in 1883 with a freshman class of 15, with the administration adding the second and third years as this group progressed. It met on the second floor of Ashland Elementary School, on the grounds of the present Jose Valdez School. That first building very quickly became too small and was razed in 1886 to make way for a majestic new Ashland on the same site, the high school again on the second floor. A few years later a large addition was built at the rear to accommodate the high school, but the population of North Denver continued to expand, and in 1909 the cornerstone was laid for the present buildings.

In 1913 an annex west of this building was added to house various shop and home economics classes: in 1960 an east wing for physical education classes, including a pool, was built. From 1980 to 1983 a major interior remodeling was done, including a new auditorium, cafeteria, atrium lobby, offices and 15 classrooms.

A main entrance was opened on the north side leading into the parking lot, but the original tile corridors clattery iron stairways, and the grand south entrance, with its murals, arched doorways, and impressive facade, remain fixtures of the remodeled building.

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