

# Historic Old North End 2nd Entryway Sign Journal

August 23, 2014

## Introduction

A second neighborhood entryway sign at N. Nevada Ave. and Lilac Street was planned for mid-2014. The stone is native to the area and is known as Dawson Arkose. It is found in the foundations and porches of many of the homes in The Old North End. Our stone was mostly harvested from a home near the UCCS campus, which is owned by an ONEN neighbor. This sign will feature grates salvaged from the Stearman House located on the property of Penrose hospital before it was demolished in 2011, battered columns and mark the northern entrance to our neighborhood. The following is a sketch of the proposed sign:



**Sketch by Susanne Barr** 

The purpose of this journal is to document the overall sign process and note any best practices particularly during the construction. Best Practices are noted by "**BP**" in the document. The journal also serves as a chronology of related activities prior too, during and following the sign construction. Our goal is that future entryway sign projects in The Old North End and/or other neighborhoods benefit from this shared knowledge.

# The idea of a neighborhood entryway sign

The ONEN Master Plan adopted by the Colorado Springs City Council in 1991 includes references to entryways and identification. The ONEN Historic Preservation (HP) Committee's first mention of entryways was discussed as an aside to "Historic Signage," black and white signs at their February 1, 2011 meeting. The ONEN HP Committee under the direction of Chair Pat Doyle continued to develop the concept and kept the ONEN Board informed. Many ideas flourished in discussions that followed. Some components people agreed on were the use of wrought iron, native stone, and columns; the entryway should be low and broad; the letters should be large and easy to read. Working with the city it was determined that the nose of the median at Nevada Ave. and Uintah St. would be an acceptable location for the first entryway sign. No City Council approval was necessary. The decisions made for sign wording, size of sign, composition i.e. stone type, grates, iron work were proposed to the ONEN Board in the form of two proposals.

The first sign at North Nevada Ave. median and Uintah St. was approved to start by the ONEN Board in the spring of 2012. Locating native stone commenced in September 2012.

Quotes for material and labor were requested from Gordon Sign, Colorado Springs Ironworks (CSI) and Contractor Ed Rinker in February 2012. Proposal came back at – Gordon Sign: \$9265; CSI: \$500.07; Ed Rinker - \$3000. This information was presented and accepted by the ONEN Board and the board voted to proceed with the entryway project.

\$6000 of the entryway costs were financed by proceeds from the sale of the ONEN book Exploring the Old North End Neighborhood and the rest came from the ONEN general fund.

The construction of the first ONEN entryway sign was completed in May 2013 and dedicated at an unveiling on May 31, 2013. A time capsule of ONEN pictures and documents was included.



Entryway Sign at North Nevada Ave & Uintah St.

## The Second Entryway Sign - Planned Mid 2014

The ONEN HP Committee proposed a slightly different design for the second sign in June 2013 and approved by the ONEN Board. The permit process was started at that time. Construction on the bridge and extended median on N. Nevada Ave. at Lilac St. was scheduled to be completed by the spring of 2014 and thus required the sign project to wait until that construction/landscaping was complete.

## Neighborhood communications and input

A colored rendering was made to show neighbors at ONEN's October 2013 semi-annual meeting. ONEN Newsletter, ONEN Weekly Digest emails and <u>ONEN face book</u> also served to keep neighbors informed with the progress. Once construction started, pictures were posted on the <u>ONEN face book</u> page for all neighbors to see.

## • Approval process and the Revocable Permit

The entryway sign was planned for the median on N. Nevada Ave. and as such fell under the purview of the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services.

On November 14, 2013, the Parks Board met. ONEN's request for a permit was on the agenda. Bob Sullivan, Vic Appugliese, Pat Doyle and Bob Loevy, representing ONEN, attended to make short presentations and answer questions. Susanne Barr's rendition of the second sign was made available to Parks Board members.

The initial key contact was Sue Matz – Program, Revocable Permit and Human Establishment Coordinator. She provided the coordination with other parts of the City organization that signed off on this project. Once the bridge and landscaping was completed the Revocable Permit was received with the go ahead to start construction. Copy of the Permit is included in the Appendix.

#### • Expenditures

The second entryway at N. Nevada Ave. & Lilac St. costs were presented to the ONEN Board on December 9, 2013 and were unanimously approved. Overall cost savings were achieved as compared to the first entryway sign due to recent ONEN sales tax exempt status and streamlining of the building processes.

#### Laying out the ground space

Several meetings took place with people from City engineering, City landscape architects, and the City horticulturist in addition to Sue Matz. The location of the sign was agreed upon between ONEN and the City and properly staked. It was important that the landscaping, irrigation system and entryway sign location were all coordinated and in sync

with one another. Coordinates of key City personnel are included in the Appendix. Approximate space staked and marked off was 30 inches X 15 feet.





## • Time capsule

A notice asking Old North Enders for one page stories and photographs to include in the entryway time capsules went out in the ONEN spring 2014 newsletter, on the ONEN website, Facebook and emails. In an attempt to learn more about ONEN history, letters were sent to former ONEN presidents and neighborhood community leaders for additional stories to include in the one of the time capsules. Neighbors could send their input by mail, in person or email. More than 100 neighbors and 12 past ONEN Presidents submitted stories.

ONEN provided plastic paper clips to attach items and archival sleeves to enclose the documents. Jazy Frei Plumbing & Heating donated the two PVC time capsules. No metal was used to reduce deterioration.

# Construction details of second entryway sign

#### • Construction crew

- The construction crew was the same as for the first entryway sign at Nevada Ave and Uintah
  - Vic Appugliese Construction Manager for the project and past ONEN President
  - Ed Rinker Construction Head, stone mason and ONEN neighbor
  - Rock Wiley Stone mason and Ed's right hand man
  - Chuck Martin ONEN board member, project volunteer and journal recorder

#### Contractors

- The contractors used on this site were the following:
  - Ed Rinker Contractor and stone mason
  - Ric Harper Colorado Springs Ironworks (CSI) Sign support rail, steel posts, curved iron and powder coating
  - Gordon Signs 2ftX6ft sign
  - Mendoza Used Brick and Stone, Inc. in Denver. Sandstone Sign Caps

#### • Location of Entryway Sign

Location of second sign was North Nevada Ave median at Lilac St.

## • Preparation for sign construction

#### o General landscape north of the sign area

Day 1 Monday June 30, 2014 – This area is assigned to ONEN for ongoing maintenance - pulled weeds – Vic & Chuck 5:45pm to 9pm

## o Flower Garden in front of the sign area

Day 2 Tuesday July 1, 2014 - pulled weeds – Vic & Chuck 6pm to 9pm

- o Day 3 Thursday July 3, 2014 Vic & Chuck 7am to 5:30pm
  - Leveled flower bed.
  - Dug down to see how deep the sprinkler system was that runs between the two sprinkler heads on the north and south side of the sign - 22in deep deemed no problem with the sign foundation.

- Put canvas down on the north section of the flower bed to protect garden soil. BP
- Laid pallets on top of the canvas.
- Moved all the stones from Vic's house and laid them out on the pallets. This was a change from the first sign. We found having all the stones at the site was much more efficient rather than bringing over 10 or 15 at a time to choose. **BP** Though the rocks were left at the site they were covered with a tarp and none of the rocks went missing.



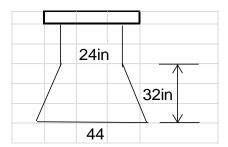
Vic with all the rocks needed for the project

- Juan from City Parks came and turned off the sprinklers around the flower bed area. We agreed to call him when the sprinklers could be turned back on.
- Ric from CSI delivered the two 8in (7 5/8in inside diameter) square steel columns we decided not to leave them at the site for security reasons. Ric confirmed the black paint would be BK#08 for all iron work & sign. Ric noted that he needed exact length for the iron support rail that will be welded to the two steel columns and the sign will be bolted to that rail. The rail also needs to be powder coated. **BP** We found that the PVC pipe for the time capsule slid in just fine. **Note:** A special thank you goes to Pete Doyle and Shaun Lucero, Traffic Engineering, City of Colorado Springs, for information regarding the black color (Bk 08) that matches our neighborhood street–naming signs, which they also facilitated.



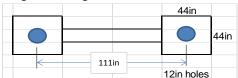
Steel post with PVC time capsule

Pat Doyle, Ed Rinker, Vic Appugliese and Chuck Martin met at the end of the day to discuss the dimension for the battered stone columns. Agreed dimensions were 24in at a point 32in up and 44in at the base. These measurements would be used later for a template.



## • Foundation, Steel Columns, grates and stone work

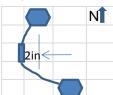
- o Day 4 1st Construction Day: Work commenced on July 4, 2014 Ed, Vic, Chuck 7am to 5pm.
- o Plan for the day:
  - Build foundation for the two columns planned at 44in X 44in and Depth of concrete 8in with two steel columns size 8in, length 7 ft., square with inside diameter 7 5/8 in, length in ground 37.5in and length above ground 46.5in.



• Composition of cement mix: 2 QUIKRETE® 80lb bags at a time + 9 quarts of water with 6 quarts before adding more cement and 3qt during mixing. NOTE: The amount of water needed will vary depending on temperature and humidity.

#### Construction Process:

Noted location of irrigation system piping going under planned sign with one sprinkler on the north side and one on the south side of the sign. Depth was about 19in and 2in West from North Sprinkler

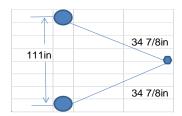


A 2X4 was staked in the middle between the two planned holes and concrete pads. A 2X4 was held in place with one stake on each side at opposite ends. We measured 32 ft. from curb to curb and marked center (16ft) on the 2X4. BP



Ed measuring to find exact location for post holes

• We then measured out 111 divided by 2 = 55.5in to the centerline of each hole for the steel column. As a check we went about 35ft south of the sign, found the center of the median 16ft from each curb and drove a post to measure from. We measured from that post over to each centerline from the middle 2X4 to find the right location for each hole to make sure it was square with the median and curbs. **BP** 





■ Two 12in diameter holes 38in deep were made for the steel columns. The hole on the east side of the plot had fibre optic cable running below ground so extra caution was taken in digging to ensure we didn't come in contact with that cable.



Vic carefully digging and removing dirt

- Marked off area in the dirt of 46inX46in for the column foundation frame.
- Dug down 8in and cleared all the dirt in the 46inX46in area in preparation for the foundation frame.



**Prep for foundation** 

• Built the two foundation frames with 2inX10in - for each we used 2 that were 44in in length and two that were 47in in length. The long boards were then screwed into the shorter ones to complete the box.



**Building the foundation frames** 

The box was set into the 8in deep foundation area. Each was squared and leveled. Dirt was then pushed under the frame and around the outside. A metal stake was driven on the inside of the two north south facing boards and a screw thru the stake into the boards to keep it all from moving when dumping cement. **BP** 



Setting and leveling the foundation frame

• Rebar was cut to a length of 5ft and then bent at 90 degree with one leg 3ft and the other 2ft using a rebar tool. These would be inserted into the Steel column hole (the 3ft leg) and then would extend into the 44inX44in foundation and about half was up i.e. about 4in off the bottom of the foundation. **BP** 



**Cutting & bending rebar** 

- A 2inX4in was then laid on top of the wooden frame and aligned such that one side of the steel column would be flush against the 2X4. The Steel column would then be clamped to the 2X4 to ensure no movement while adding cement. **BP**
- The steel pipe was then lifted and set into the hole and aligned vertically with the 2X4. A level was used on both sides of the column to ensure it was level and then a clamp was applied to the pipe and 2X4
- A 2X4 was also clamped at the top to ensure no movement while cementing. **BP**



Ready to pour cement

- Cement was mixed in a deep wheel barrow with a garden hoe. BP Two cans of water (about 6qt) were put in the wheel barrow then two sacks of cement were each cut in the middle. The cut part of the sack was immersed in the water to reduce the cement dust. BP Then mixed with the hoe and another can of water (3qt) added as necessary. BP A Total of 36 bags was used for the two foundations and column holes.
- Cement was poured into the foundation and smoothed and leveled to be about 1 in from the top i.e. just a little above ground level.
- Rebar was inserted after some cement was put around the columns in each hole and eventually covered with cement.
- The distance between the two columns for the steel support rail that would be welded to the two columns was measured. The sign will be bolted to the support rail later. The distance was 102 7/16. This info was passed to Ric so that he could order, receive and get the support rail powder coated and with BK#08. Powder coating was a key to help ensure longevity for all of the iron work. **BP**



The end of a good day!

- O Day 5 2<sup>nd</sup> Construction Day: July 7, 2014 -8am to Noon Ed and Chuck
- O Plan for the day construct middle foundation forms and pour cement. The rest of the day was used for gathering material for Day 6 and making a wood template for the battered columns.
- o Construction Process:
  - Removed the 2X10 framing for the cement pads poured on Friday July 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Measured from the centerline of the two steel columns 8 1/2in in each direction for a total foundation width of 17in.
  - Marked outline of foundation including room for the 2X6 forms and dug out the dirt.
  - Using stakes at three points on each side of the 2X6's screwed them into the form.



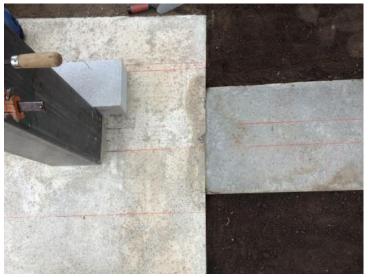
Frame in place for foundation between columns

• Mixed and filled the area with cement. After 4 bags of cement, two lengths of rebar were laid in the area and then covered with another 5 bags of cement for a total of 9 bags.



Middle foundation completed

- o Day 6 3rd Construction Day: July 8, 2014 -8am to 4:30pm Ed, Rock and Chuck
- Plan for the day mortar 4inX8inX16in open cell cement blocks around each pole and down the middle foundation to hold the two grates. Once that is done then the stone building will begin.
- Construction Process:
  - We removed the two wooden forms for the middle foundation
  - Next step was to use a chalk line to lay out where the cement blocks would go. They serve two
    purposes one line of blocks is on the middle foundation and holds the two grates. The other
    cement blocks were set around the two steel columns largely to take up space rather than just a lot
    of concrete. BP



Chalk line used to mark the cement block location

• The first step was to lay out exactly how the grates would be positioned. Those blocks were mortared in place and properly leveled. A groove was cut on each block adjacent to the grates so that the grates would slide down and be held in place.



Laying out the position of the grates & cement blocks



Inserting the grates in the notches of the cement blocks

- The blocks were then mortared and put in place around the columns. The mix was Mortar Mix, plus a concrete bonding agent 1 quart per bag of mortar. **BP**
- The template was put in place and clamped at exactly 32in up from the foundation. **BP** The wood was cut to 24in. We marked on the foundation 44in out from the center of the columns in all directions. We could then lay a straight edge from the 44in markers up to the wood template and that would give us the correct angle for the battering.



Grates and cement blocks in place & ready for stones

Now we were ready to start the stone laying. The best stones for the position were selected and put in place by Ed. This process of selecting the right stone and fitting it into place is where skill and experience plays a big part. Though Rock and Chuck often offered suggestions it was Ed's decision for each and every stone. Usually two or three stones were put in place to see how they stood up and looked. **BP** Then, one by one, they were mortared in place. The mix was 80lb Quikrete Mortar Mix plus Quikrete Concrete Bonding Agent (1qt per bag of mortar and 10oz bottle of Quikrete Brown Liquid Cement Color per bag of mortar. **BP** 



Template in place and start of stone positioning by Ed & Rock

As we got the stones in place then we came behind that operation and poured concrete behind the stones and cells of the blocks that were around each column.



The end of a good day!

- O Day 7 4th Construction Day: July 9, 2014 -8am to 5:00pm Ed, Rock and Chuck
- o Plan for the day continue laying stones
- Construction Process:
  - The three of us fell into a pretty good routine today. Ed selected the rocks and mortared them in place, Chuck finished off the mortar and Rock poured cement in the space behind the rocks and the steel columns. A few comments about mortaring: It was important to push the mortar into all of the void spaces to ensure a tight seal. A variety of tools were used for the tooling and smoothing of the mortar a mason's trowel was used by Ed to lay the initial mortar and then a margin trowel was used by Chuck to move the mortar into the right places. It is important to not have excess mortar on the face of the stones. Even a simple baby spoon became a tool of choice to give the mortar a smooth finished look. **BP**



A good day's work

- o Day 8 5th Construction Day: July 10, 2014 -8am to 5:00pm Ed, Rock and Vic
- o Plan for the day Install lintel and continue laying stones
- Construction Process:
  - The lintel was purchased and installed today over the two grates to support the rocks on top. **BP**The dimensions were 6in wide by 3/16in thick and 56in long. The metal plate was given a coat of protective paint and then was installed with latex modified tile mortar. **BP** Note: As per Wikipedia: A lintel can be a load-bearing building component, a decorative architectural element, or a combined ornamented structural item. It is often found over portals, doors, windows, and fireplaces.
  - Stone laying continued today. The supply of stones has decreased to the point that finding the
    perfect stones is more difficult and time consuming.



Good progress again today - Ed and Rock finishing up for the day

- O Day 9 6th Construction Day: July 14, 2014 -8am to 3:00pm Ed and Chuck
- o Plan for the day Continue laying stones
- Construction Process:

- The sign was brought to the work site to take measurements and to confirm where the sign bracket would be welded and where the sign would be positioned.
- About six rocks were cemented in place on the eastern post and rocks were positioned on the western post just to see how they would fit.
- Cement was poured behind the newly placed rocks to ensure good support and to fill the gap between the rocks and steel post. This procedure was repeated for each level of rocks.



Proceeded as far as possible before installation of support rail

- O Day 10 7th Construction Day: July 15, 2014 -8am to 4:30pm Ed, Rock and Chuck
- o Plan for the day Install Sign support rail and continue laying stones.
- Construction Process:
  - The Welder arrived and completed the welding on the sign support rail thus allowing the remaining stone work to proceed.



Welding of the sign support rail to the posts was completed



The exposed cements blocks around the grates were "painted" with latex tile mortar and brown coloring added.

- All of the stones are in place and ready to be leveled at the top in preparation for the Cap stones.
- The remaining stones and some pallets were removed from the worksite.
- O Day 11 8th Construction Day: July 16, 2014 8am to 11:00am Ed, Rock and Chuck
- Plan for the day Cut caps and prepare structure for the two caps.
- Construction Process:
  - The stone slab purchased from Mendoza Used Brick and Stone, Inc. in Denver for the two sign caps was 33inX60in and 3 ½ in thick sandstone. This was cut in half and the new sides chiseled to make all four sides with a similar rough edge. **BP**



Ed makes the big cut to divide the slab into two pieces for the two Caps

- Stones at the top were leveled off with a grinder to provide a flat surface for the two caps.
- The latex tile mortar was used to fill in any gaps at the top to provide a smooth surface for the two caps.



Ed making sure top is ready for the cap

- The whole structure was cleaned with an air blower and washed with water and brush.
- Once dry, a Behr premium stone sealer (from Home Depot) was applied to the structure. **BP**
- The area in front and behind the sign was cleaned and the garden area/grass line was straightened.



After 8 days of construction – ready for caps & sign

- O During the time period from this point until the dedication on July 26, 2014 several short tasks were completed as follows:
  - Caps were added on July 23, 2014 to the columns temporarily i.e. no mortar at this time as the time capsules were not yet in place. Pictures of the dedication were planned to be in the time capsule so the Caps would be mortared in place after the two capsules were inserted into the steel posts. The sign was screwed into place after the caps were positioned.



Rock, neighbor Geoffrey and Ed checking sign fit prior to screwing in place

• The scrolling iron work was installed on July 25, 2014 by Ric Harper.



Scrolling iron work was screwed to the sign

## **Dedication of second entryway sign**

- **Date:** July 26<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 5:15pm
- Details -
  - All neighbors were invited through a series of email announcements and city dignitaries were also invited by email. Bill Vogrin – Side Streets columnist for the Colorado Springs Gazette was also invited – Though Bill could not attend, he wrote a nice front page article that appeared in the July 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the Gazette.
  - About 45 people attended the event and several dignitaries were present including City Council member Jill Gaebler. Five past and present ONEN Presidents were here to celebrate.



Light rain stopped just in time



Past ONEN Presidents left to right Vic Appugliese, Bruce Doyle, Bob Loevy, Cathy Mundy and Present ONEN President Bob Sullivan

ONEN President Bob Sullivan opened the dedication and welcomed those attending. Bob introduced Jill Gaebler – City Council Member and Four previous ONEN Presidents – Bob Loevy, Bruce Doyle, Cathy Mundy and Vic Appugliese. Bob presented ONEN Good Neighbor Awards to City officials that supported ONEN in the sign development. Bob also recognized and thanked local Fire Station #2 for their participation in the dedication and support of the neighborhood.



Connie Perry - City Landscape Architect receiving award from Bob Sullivan



Truck from Fire Station #2 attended festivities (note black sign on truck that says "Old North End Neighborhood")

O Bob introduced Pat Doyle chair of the ONEN Historic Preservation Committee who was instrumental in the entryway sign development. Pat provided an overview of the sign project and recognized the many people involved from the beginning to end.



Pat introduced Vic Appugliese – past ONEN President and Construction Manager for the sign project.
 Vic described the project and recognized and provided Good Neighbor Awards to the construction team members – Ed Rinker, Rock Wiley and Chuck Martin.



Vic Appugliese describing the sign construction - next to him is Bob Sullivan, and the construction team – R to L Ed Rinker, Rock Wiley and Chuck Martin

O Pat Doyle properly christened the sign with a bottle of champagne and the group then moved to the Navajo Hogan restaurant for further celebration.

#### • Completion of project

On August 24, 2014 the time capsules will be inserted into the two steel posts and CAPs sealed in place on top.

## Summary

Construction of this second entryway sign proceeded smoothly and with no problems. The first sign provided some good experience and some lessons learned, as expected, that were applied in the second sign building. These included the following improvements:

- All of the stones were at the site from the beginning to provide the best selection of stones each step of the way.
- A neighbor across the street from the worksite was gracious in providing the construction team needed water for cement/mortar, therefore eliminating the need to bring water in by truck each day.
- o Ed Rinker cemented the steel posts in place instead of another contractor, so the foundation for the post and stones could be built at one time and all in exactly the right place.
- A canopy was a big help to give the team a break from the sun fortunately weather cooperated quite nicely during this period as we were never rained out.

Future stone signs or walls may each be unique in their design however, the construction process outlined in this journal and the associated 23 best practices should be helpful in improving the efficiency and success of any similar project.

# **Appendix**

#### • City of Colorado Springs personnel involved in the project:

- o Sue Matz Program, Revocable Permit and Human Service Establishment Coordinator
  - 30 S Nevada Ave. #105, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
  - TEL: (719) 385-5355
  - FX: (719) 385-5167
- o Connie Perry, ASLA Landscape Architect II Planning & Community Development Land Use Review
  - 30 S Nevada Ave. #301, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
  - Tel: (719) 385-5375
  - FAX: (719) 385-5167
  - Email: cperry@springsgov.com
- o Donna Sanchez City Horticulturist, Primary Parks & Medians Maintenance Supervisor Parks,

Recreation and Cultural Services

- 1401 Recreation Way, P.O Box 1575, Mail Code 1200, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-1575
- TEL: 719 385-6568
- Cell: 719 243-7350
- FAX: 719 385-6579
- Email: dsanchez @springsgov.com
- City support personnel: Aaron Egbert, City Engineering, Mike Kelso, City Engineering and Randy Orrell,
   City of CS P&RCS

### • Contractors and Suppliers:

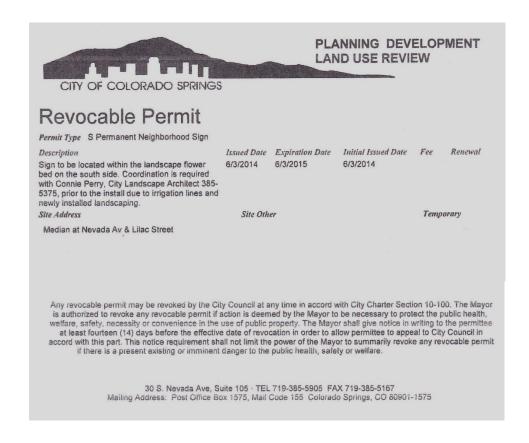
- o Ed Rinker
  - TEL: (719) 217-1174
- Colorado Springs Ironworks (CSI)
  - 2821 N Prospect St, Colorado Springs, CO 80907
  - TEL: (719) 548-4907
  - Cell Phone: (719) 325-6661 Ric Harper
- Gordon Signs
  - 5861 Terminal Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80915
  - http://www.gordonsign.com
  - TEL: (719) 633-7763
- Mendoza Used Brick Inc.
  - 701 W 64th Ave, Denver, CO 80221
  - http://www.mendozaservices.com
  - TEL: (303) 427-120

### • Contractors and Suppliers Costs:

Second Sign	
\$	7,400
\$	1,083
\$	2,016
\$	100
\$	10,599
	Seco \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Note: Stone was donated by ONEN Neighbor

#### • Revocable Permit



#### • Materials Used

Materials used were 87 bags of cement, 16 bags of mortar, 7 gallons of concrete bonding adhesive 18 bottles of colorant and an estimated 500 gallons of water.





August 23, 2014