

HISTORY COLORADO

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

SECTION I

General Information

Name of Property

Historic Name: **Boulder Kyudojo**

Other Names: **None**

Address of Property

☐ address not for publication

Street Address: **4220 19th Street**

City: **Boulder**

County: **Boulder**

Zip: **80304**

Present Owner of Property

(for multiple ownership, list the names and addresses of each owner on one or more continuation sheets)

Name: **Aki Shikami and Jimmy White**

Street Address: **4220 19th Street**

City: **Boulder**

County: **Colorado**

Zip: **80304**

Phone:

Site #: 5BL.15164

Owner Consent for Nomination

Please attach the signed consent from each owner of property - see attached form

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Certification of Listing


Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer HISTORY COLORADO

 **D. Eidman, Dep SHPO**
Date

10/1/24

Property Name:

County:

Why should this resource be included on the State Registry? How is the resource architecturally and/or historically significant?

[Provide a brief summary (500 words or less). Please see the accompanying *How to Nominate a Property to the State Register* document for a definition of terms.]

Kyudo, meaning the “way of the bow,” is a Japanese archery style with traditions in philosophical ideals. A Kyudojo is a practice hall where students cultivate Kyudo. The Boulder Kyudojo was constructed in 1983 by Kanjuro Shibata XX and is the first known Kyudojo in the United States.

The Kyudojo allowed the introduction of Japanese traditions and philosophical approaches to Colorado and the United States. Kyudo is a form of archery rooted in Zen Buddhism that focuses on bettering the self through meditative practice instead of athletic technique. Kanjuro Shibata XX was the twentieth in the Shibata lineage. This lineage has served as the Sensei (meaning teacher of Japanese arts) of Kyudo in Japan and as the official bow maker for the Japanese Emperor. Furthermore, the practice hall for Kyudo, known as a Kyudojo, is designed using Japanese stylistic elements.

This rare resource is significant to Colorado’s history for its connection to Japanese heritage, the philosophical approaches to Kyudo, and the landscape design associated with the Kyudojo.

Property Name:

County:

SECTION II: Significance of Property

Nomination Criteria

- ☒ **A** - property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history
- ☐ **B** - property is connected with persons significant in history
- ☒ **C** - property has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan
- ☐ **D** - property is of geographic importance
- ☐ **E** - property contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history

Area(s) of Significance [Check all that apply to this resource.]

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Exploration/Settlement |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Geography/Community Identity |
| ☐ Archaeology – prehistoric | ☐ Health/Medicine |
| ☐ Archaeology – historic | ☐ Industry |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Invention |
| ☐ Commerce | ☒ Landscape Architecture |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Law |
| ☐ Community Planning and Development | ☐ Literature |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Military |
| ☐ Economics | ☐ Performing Arts |
| ☐ Education | ☐ Politics/Government |
| ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion |
| ☐ Entertainment/Recreation | ☐ Science |
| ☒ Ethnic Heritage | ☐ Social History |
| ☒ Asian American | ☐ Individuals with Disabilities History |
| ☐ Black/African American | ☐ LGBTQ History |
| ☐ Hispanic/Lation/Chicano | ☐ Women's History |
| ☐ Middle Eastern/North African | ☐ Immigrant History |
| ☐ Native American/Indigenous | ☐ Other** _____ |
| ☐ Pacific Islander | ☐ Transportation |
| ☐ Other* _____ | ☒ Other _Philosophy_ _____ |

* Other Ethnic Heritage may include groups that self-identify outside of the listed ethnicities. Please provide specific language and terms.

** Other Social Histories may include people-centered social movements, such as those involving individuals impacted by the justice system or individuals experiencing homelessness.

Why is this resource significant to Colorado's history?

[Please provide an explanation for each area of significance identified from the list above. This is your overall argument for why this resource is important related to the area of significance identified.]

The Boulder Kyudojo, a unique cultural gem in Colorado and the United States, is eligible for the State Register of Historic Properties under Criteria A, Ethnic Heritage, for its association with a Japanese cultural practice and the Shibata lineage, and Criteria A, Philosophy, for its association with meditative archery traditions and practices rooted in Japanese philosophical traditions. It is also eligible under Criteria C for its landscape design as perhaps the first, and only, example in Colorado of a Kinteki-dojo archery range.

Criteria A – Ethnic Heritage (Japanese)

The Kyudojo is eligible under Criteria A – Ethnic Heritage (Japanese) for its association with Kyudo (meaning, the “way of the bow”), a Japanese traditional archery practice, and Kanjuro Shibata XX (Shibata XX), the Kyudojo Sensei.

The Boulder Kyudojo is home to a uniquely Japanese tradition. Kyudo is an archery practice from Japan rooted in Zen Buddhism, a sect of Buddhism based primarily in Japan. The introduction of Kyudo in Boulder brought a Japanese practice and art form to the United States. Kyudo, meaning “the way of the bow,” is relatively new in East Asian tradition, a few hundred years old.¹ It differs significantly from the more historic jiu-jitsu, meaning the “skill of the bow,” practiced by militaries for war and fighting. Instead, Kyudo focuses on the meditative, disciplinary, and form of archery over accuracy and aim with a philosophy that “correct shooting is correct hitting.”² The property was the first property of Zenko, an international organization that established Kyudojos around the world – in North America and Europe – to cultivate and teach the Japanese philosophical approaches of archery.

The Boulder Kyudojo is directly linked to the Shibata lineage through Kanjuro Shibata XX, who took ownership of the property and established the practice hall in 1983. The Shibata lineage dates back to the 16th century when Kanjuro Munekazu Shibata I was commissioned to make bows for the Tokugawa shogunate clan. During the Meiji Restoration, the Shibata lineage was officially appointed the “Bowmaker to the Emperor of Japan,” a title still held today. In addition to making bows for the Emperor, the Shibata lineage is also responsible for making hama-yumi, sacred bows used in Shinto and Buddhist traditions throughout Japan. Kanjuro Shibata XX, born in Kyoto, Japan, in 1921, started training in Kyudo at the age of eight, the traditional age to begin the practice. Soon after, he began learning the ancient art of Japanese Kyudo bowmaking at the family workshop. Shibata’s teacher was his grandfather, Kanjuro Shibata XIX, who served as the Imperial bow maker and Kyudo Sensei. In 1959, Kanjuro Shibata XIX passed away, and Shibata, with the official title of Kanjuro Shibata XX, took over as the Imperial Bowmaker to the Emperor of Japan until his retirement in 1994. His adopted son, Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XXI, is now serving as the bow maker for the Emperor of Japan.³ Shibata XX passed away on October 21, 2013, in Boulder, at the age of 92.⁴ The property is now owned by Shibata’s granddaughter,

¹ Stanley, John. “Kyudo, the way of the bow and the pursuit of Zen in archery.” World Archery. 9 July 2020.

² Stanley, John. “Kyudo, the way of the bow and the pursuit of Zen in archery.” World Archery. 9 July 2020.

³ Zenko Kyudojo. “About Sensei.” Traditional Japanese Archery. 2014.

⁴ Shambhala News Service. “The Passing of Shibata Sensei XX.” Shambhala Times. October 22, 2013.

who continues to run the Kyudojo in her grandfather's honor, ensuring the continuity of the Shibata family tradition.⁵

The Kyudojo in Boulder, a bastion of Japanese culture, was home to Kanjuro Shibata XX from 1980 until his death in 2013, bringing a long Japanese lineage to Colorado and the United States. The opening of the Kyudojo in 1983 provided a space for a Japanese tradition to flourish and grow, instilling a deeper understanding and appreciation for Japanese art and philosophy.

Criteria A – Philosophy

The Kyudojo is eligible under Criteria A – Philosophy for the property's association with ancient Japanese archery practices, tradition, and philosophical ideology. Kyudo is not a sport, it is a philosophy of life and better life. The Boulder Kyudojo is a significant place in Kyudo practice and is, therefore, it is significant in the area of philosophy.

The Boulder Kyudojo is an example of a Kyudo hall that practices on philosophical principles. Kanjuro Shibata XX grew concerned that Kyudo students, particularly those in Japan, were becoming focused on hitting the targets and competing with each other rather than on technique and concentration. In Kyudo, Shibata said "one is not polishing one's shooting style or technique, but the mind. The dignity of shooting is the important point. This is how Kyudo differs from the common approach to archery."⁶ Shibata emphasized a philosophical approach unconnected to any religious practice. Instead, the philosophy of Kyudo is about the cultivation of the student. He described it as a practice of the full self and that the point of Kyudo is to clean the heart. Hitting the target and having good form might feel good, but it is more important to work on form. The point in Kyudo is that "the low way around is the best way."⁷ Shibata said, "In Kyudo there is no hope. Hope is not the point. The point is that through long and genuine practice your natural dignity as a human being comes out. This natural dignity is already in you, but it is covered up by a lot of obstacles. When they are cleared away, your natural dignity is allowed to shine forth."⁸

As stated, Kyudo in Boulder is not tied directly to any religious practice. However, the traditions in Japan are rooted in Zen Buddhism. The term Zen means meditation, an essential component in the art of Kyudo.⁹ The goal is to form practical, experiential knowledge as a form of nondiscriminatory wisdom through meditative practice. The common understanding of meditation is when the practitioner takes a seated position. However, other forms of meditation exist that incorporate precise movements. Meditation through movement is seen in practices such as yoga, walking meditation, or the use of meditation while eating. Kyudo is the incorporation of this moving meditation in archery practice. As John Stanley with World Archery said, "It is not enough just to shoot accurately; the shot must be made with the utmost sincerity and commitment, to manifest a hidden power."¹⁰ The goal of Kyudo is to achieve the state of *sin-zen-bi*, which translates as truth-goodness-beauty. The archers will achieve *sin-zen-bi* when they shoot correctly.¹¹ The practice constantly works at achieving this. As a result, students are,

⁵ Pechota, Damion. Interview with Jimmy White. May 4, 2024.

⁶ Shambhala Times. "Warrior Tribute to Onyumishi Kanjuro Shibata XX." October 24, 2013.

⁷ Rich, Vajra; Rich, Michael. Interview with Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XX. The Chronicles. 2010.

⁸ Shambhala Times. "Warrior Tribute to Onyumishi Kanjuro Shibata XX." October 24, 2013.

⁹ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. Japanese archery: Kyūdō.

¹⁰ Stanley, John. "Kyudo, the way of the bow and the pursuit of Zen in archery." World Archery. 9 July 2020.

¹¹ Stanley, John. "Kyudo, the way of the bow and the pursuit of Zen in archery." World Archery. 9 July 2020.

and will always be, students. As Shibata XX said, “How long have you been practicing? Once more again, practice.”¹²

Jimmy White shared a story of Sensei with a student that emphasizes *sin-zen-bi*:

A group of students were on the platform practicing outside, and Sensei was sitting and watching as he always did at that time. You do your process and get everything ready. At certain times of the year, targets are at the end for a particular occasion. The idea is the form and getting everything properly coordinated with everyone. So, everyone did their thing, did the form, and shot together. This one student got it right through the center of the target, and she went, ‘Look Sensei, I got it right in the target.’ And [Sensei] went, ‘Ah, the arrow has to go somewhere, but form, not so good.’ I feel like that embodies what Kyudojo is. The goal is not the end result; it’s the process.¹³

By relocating the Kyudo tradition to the United States, he opened up a new philosophical tradition from Japan that otherwise had not been accessible to Americans and Westerners. The popularity of a philosophical Kyudo, in opposition to the sport-focused approach, allowed Kyudo, under Kanjuro Shibata XX and his students’ leadership, to spread in the United States, Canada, and throughout Europe. This started with the opening of the Boulder Kyudojo in 1983.

Criteria C – Landscape Architecture

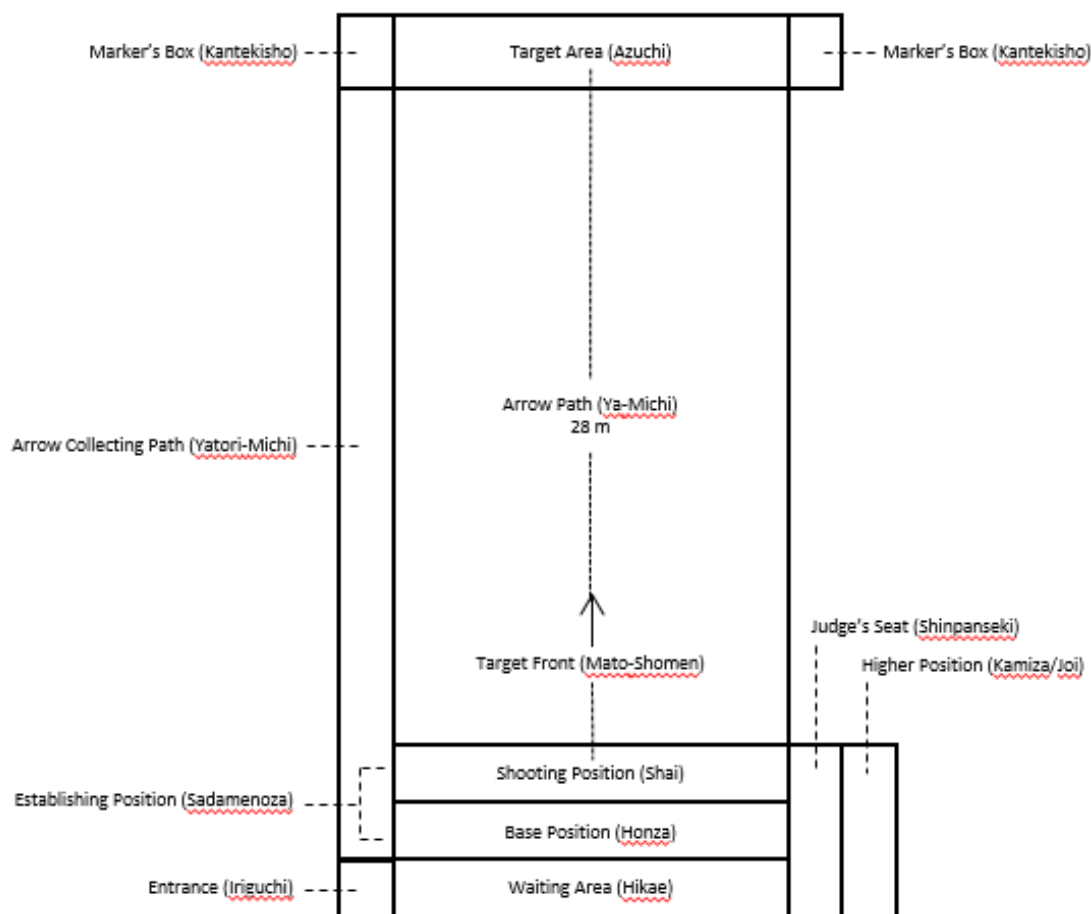
The Kyudojo is eligible for the State Register of Historic Properties under Criteria C for Landscape Architecture as a well preserved and rare example of a Kinteki-dojo style landscape and outdoor archery range.

The Boulder Kyudojo is designed using the traditional Kinteki-dojo Practice Hall layout and form. There are two types of practice halls in Kyudo. Close-range sites, known as Kinteki-dojo, are 28 meters (about 92 feet) from the shooting platform to the target bank. A long-distance range site, Enteki-dojo, is 60 meters long (about 197 feet).¹⁴ The practice halls are exterior settings with a target area on one side and a platform for the students on the other. An entrance gate greets the individual to the side of the platform. The elements of a traditional Kinteki-dojo are provided below.

¹² Shambhala Times. “Warrior Tribute to Onyumishi Kanjuro Shibata XX.” October 24, 2013.

¹³ Pechota, Damion. Interview with Jimmy White. May 4, 2024.

¹⁴ International Kyudo Federation. “Kyudojo.” About Kyudo.

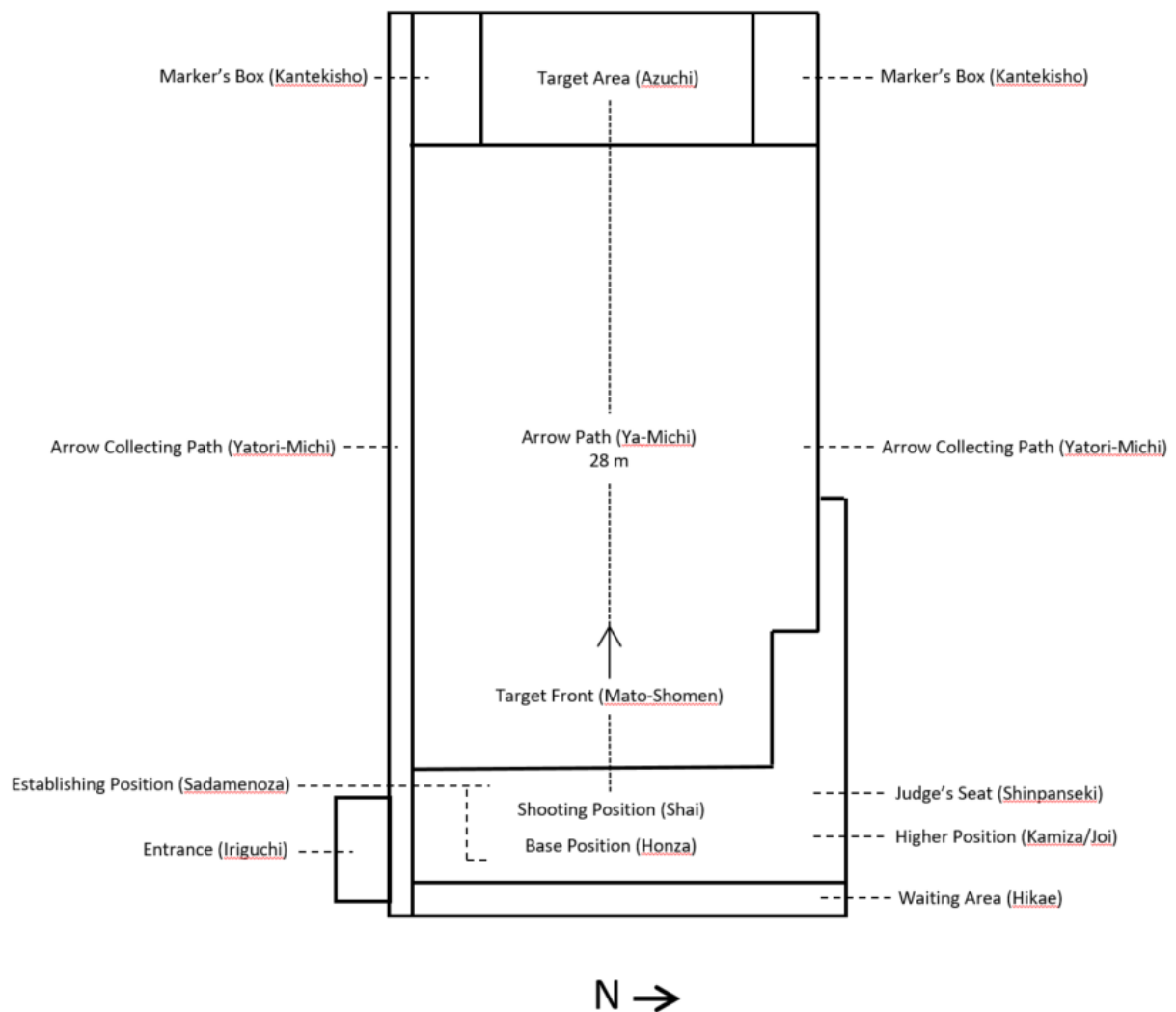
Traditional Kinteki-dojo Practice Hall Plan Design

The platform is where students stand before shooting the arrow. Once the arrow is shot, it goes to the target area to catch and stop the arrow's momentum. At the Boulder Kyudojo, the target area, consisting of sand, is recessed into the western building. No physical targets, such as bullseyes or other features, are utilized except on special occasions. When targets are used, they are positioned in the sand. Otherwise, the sand is the target and is used to stop the arrows.

There are spots on either side of the target area where students sit and, when told by knocking wood blocks from the platform, will retrieve the arrows. On either side of the arrow path is an arrow-collecting path where the students return the arrows to the practicing students. Depending on the type of hall and practice, the judge and teacher sit on the side of the platform to view and study each student's practice.¹⁵ Behind the platform is a waiting area where other students wait for their turn to participate.

¹⁵ Pechota, Damion. Interview with Jimmy White. May 4, 2024.

Boulder Kyudojo Practice Hall Site Plan



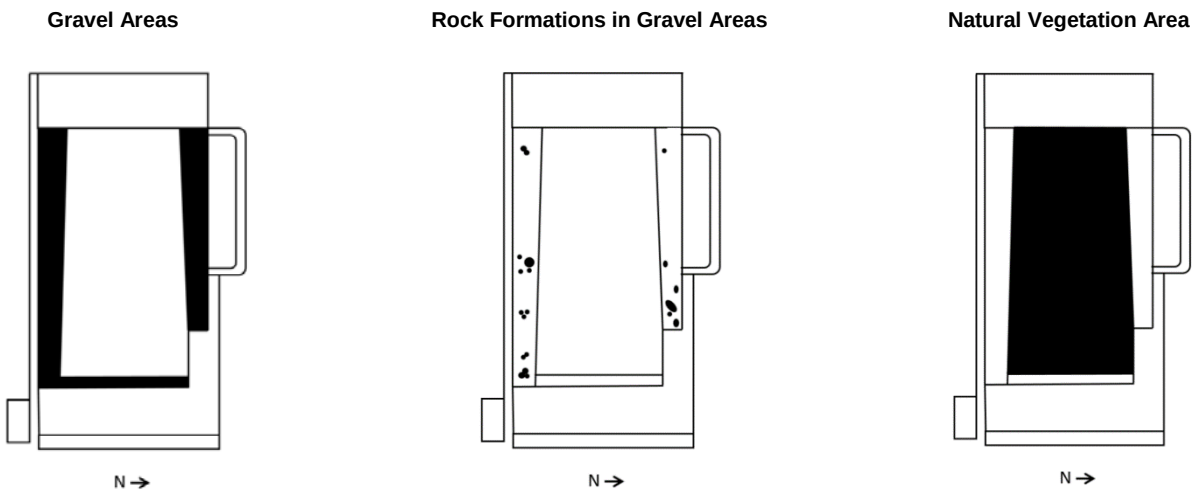
The only significant difference between the Boulder Kyudojo and the traditional form is that the platform extends west into the northern section of the arrow path area. This extension is to accommodate the garage door of the indoor Practice/Meditation Hall and allow a procession for the students at the beginning and end of each session. The extended platform still meets the standards of a Kinteki-dojo Practice Hall and makes the form of the Boulder Kyudojo slightly more unique in its design. All other elements of a Kinteki-dojo Practice Hall practice hall remain, including the 28-meter distance between the shooting position and the target area.

In the middle of the site and amid the built resources, is the arrow path, which is divided into three sections each the length of the arrow path.

The first section, to the south, is a couple feet south to north and contains pea-size gravel with decorative rocks laid throughout.

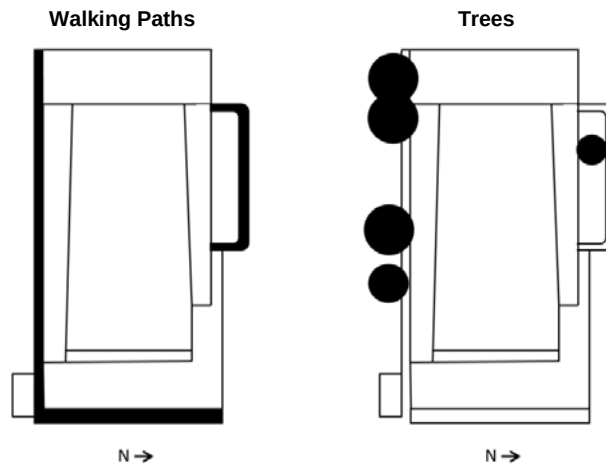
The second section, in the middle, is the widest and is filled with natural vegetation. At the eastern end, adjacent with the platform, the middle section has about a foot of pea size gravel. The entire middle section narrows slightly as it moves from east to west.

The third section, to the north, is a couple feet south to north and contains pea-size gravel with decorative rocks laid throughout, similar to the first section.



The rock formations to the south and north of the main lawn follow traditional rock garden formations and practices. Rocks are an important element in Japan, known as Japanese dry gardens. One of the main reasons is that they represent stability and strength. Furthermore, their beauty is derived from their unique formations developed over long periods of time from natural erosion. This appreciation of natural elements, the rock's metaphorical appreciation as a sign of strength, and its traditional ties to Japanese gardens, makes the rocks at the Kyudojo an important element. While dry gardens can take a variety of different styles, the common practice is small stones, varying size rocks, walking paths, pruned trees or bushes, and water. The two rock gardens in the Kyudojo do not have pruned trees or water features, but do have the other features.

The Practice Hall is bordered on the south and east sides, and partially on the north side, by walkways with flagstone pavers. Adjacent to these walkways are five trees, including four evergreen trees.



The Kyudojo is a designed landscape in the tradition of Japanese design. The formation of the practice hall follows the Kinteki-dojo measurements and forms, but the vegetation, walkways, and decorative natural elements are all in line with traditional Japanese landscape design. The goal is to create a harmonious space for reflection and focus on the art of Kyudo. By introducing traditional elements, such as the dry garden features and Kinteki-dojo designs, the Kyudojo is providing a natural space for students to practice the philosophical-minded Kyudo.

The Boulder Kyudojo is a rare example in the United States, and possibly the first with its construction in 1983, of a traditional Kinteki-dojo style landscape. The continued use of the property has maintained this style and makes it a special resource in Colorado tied to Japanese landscape architecture practices.

What is the period of significance for the resource? What time period is most important to capturing the criteria and area of significance identified above?

[Provide a year or range of years and explain why]

The property has been in use as a Kyudojo from 1983 to the present [2024]. The periods of significance for Ethnic History and Philosophy are 1983, when Kanjuro Shibata XX first opened the Kyudojo on the property, to 1994, the year that marks thirty years to comply with the State Register of Historic Properties age requirements. The period of significance for Landscape Architecture is 1983, when the Kyudojo's outdoor practice hall was designed and built.

What additional contextual information or historic background is needed to understand the significance of this resource?

[Please provide additional information to contextualize the supporting history for the argument you outlined above.]

The Kyudo Practice

The students meet at the Boulder Kyudojo on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings. The class starts inside with a 15 to 20-minute meditation. There is a ceremonial procession from inside to the platform.¹⁶ After firing the arrows, students use wood blocks to communicate before retrieving the arrows from the sand. The students who are not participating sit on a bench to the east of the stand and wait their turn to participate. At the end of class, everyone proceeds inside to end the class with another short meditation session.

Although it is a meditative practice, talking is allowed. Sensei would sit to the side, on the north end of the platform, and watch the students' techniques and practice. He would provide comments and talk to the students about their form and style. After Sensei's passing, senior students taught and advised newer students during class.¹⁷ Kyudo, as a discipline, is a collective experience. As a result, students are committed to their practice halls to develop relationships and collective experiences. The students need to get to know each other over time to properly and effectively access each other's practice. At the Boulder Kyudojo, new students learn inside for a few months before going to the practice hall. The student stands 6 feet away from the target and uses non-feathered arrows. Targets, large barrels of paper, are used inside to catch the arrows. This gives the new students time to work on their form, stance, and technique in a small space. Classes can be held inside for senior students for practice or when the weather is uncooperative for the outdoor practice hall.¹⁸

There is no standing or rank within the community. Everyone, no matter how long they have been practicing, is considered a student. The long lasting students are called "senior students" and advise the new-comers on practice and technique when starting out. The community was more active when Sensei was alive. Sensei would teach a summer intensive at the Boulder Kyudojo annually with students from around the world. The summer intensive continued for many years but stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Kyudojo is still an active community. As of the writing of this nomination in 2024, there are ten (10) to fifteen (15) students with a core of six (6) individuals. Some students have been around for decades, while others are newer. A small amount of students have come and gone over time. The students pay dues to be part of and practice at the Kyudojo.¹⁹

Kyudo Equipment

The bow, or *yumi*, is two meters long, the longest in any type of archery. Traditionally made of bamboo, wood, and leather, it is held about one-third (1/3) from the bottom, with two-thirds (2/3) extending upwards. The string is pulled back using the special gloves made for practice. In Kyudo, there are three types of gloves depending on the student and the type. The Boulder Kyudojo mainly uses the Mitsu-Gake, the three-fingered glove covering the thumb, index, and middle fingers. The thumb is a hard material that the string latches onto. No fingers hold the

¹⁶ Pechota, Damion. Interview with Jimmy White. May 4, 2024.

¹⁷ Pechota, Damion. Interview with Jimmy White. May 4, 2024.

¹⁸ Pechota, Damion. Interview with Jimmy White. May 4, 2024.

¹⁹ Pechota, Damion. Interview with Jimmy White. May 4, 2024.

bowstring; the string is placed in a notch in the thumb's curve. The arrows are made of bamboo. The arrows used inside the Indoor Practice Hall/Meditation Hall do not have feathers. The arrows for the outdoor practice hall do have feathers, traditionally made with hawk or eagle feathers.²⁰

Shibata Lineage

Kanjuro Munekazu Shibata I, the first in the Shibata lineage, lived in the 16th Century. He moved to Japan's then-capital city of Kyoto, where he made bows for the Tokugawa shogunate clan. The second (2nd) through seventeenth (17th) Shibata generations continued to be the bow makers for the leaders of Japan. Each took the name Kanjuro. During the Meiji Restoration, Kanjuro Shibata XVIII was officially appointed the "Bowmaker to the Emperor of Japan." The Shibatas were the head of the Kyoto Bow maker's Guild for generations. In addition to being the bowmaker for the Emperor, the Shibata family is also responsible for making hama-yumi sacred bows used in Shinto and Buddhist traditions. The most important duty of the Shibata is to make the Goshimpo-yumi, a sacred bow used to purify and consecrate the Ise Shrine ceremonies, held every twenty (20) years.²¹ Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XIX (19th) became the Imperial bow maker until he died in 1959. His grandson, Kanjuro Shibata XX, took over the family duty in 1959. At the same time, he became the master of the Taiyusha Kyudojo in Kyoto, which was founded as a practice hall in 1883 until the hall was closed in 1991. Kanjuro Shibata XX held the position until his adopted son, Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XXI, accepted responsibilities in 1994. Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XXI is the current bow maker for the Emperor of Japan and the official teacher of traditional Japanese archery.²²

The name Shibata originates from the families origins from Kyushi, the third largest island in Japan. The kanji, provided below, has two characters, including Shiba, meaning "tall grass", and "Ta", meaning rice field. The Shibata crest, or *mon*, is a monochromatic, two-dimensional image of a plum flower. The crest is another tie to the family's roots, as the plum flower is common in Kyushi.²³

Kanji characters for Shibata



Shibata Crest



²⁰ International Kyudo Federation. "Equipment and Clothing." About Kyudo.

²¹ Shambhala Times. "Warrior Tribute to Onyumishi Kanjuro Shibata XX." October 24, 2013.

²² Zenko Kyudojo. "About Sensei." Traditional Japanese Archery. 2014.

²³ Zenko Kyudojo. "About Sensei." Traditional Japanese Archery. 2014.

Shambhala and Kyudo

The Boulder Kyudojo has also been influenced by students and is associated with Shambhala Buddhism, established in Boulder in the 1970s by Sensei's friend Rinpoche.

Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche was born in Tibet in 1937 in both the Kagyü and Nyingma Buddhist traditions. He escaped Tibet after the 1959 Chinese invasion. In the early 1970s, he settled in Boulder, Colorado, establishing the Shambhala community and traditions there. In 1974, he established the Naropa Institute (now known as Naropa University) in Boulder.²⁴ In 1980, Shibata was invited to Boulder by individuals involved in the Shambhala community. Once in Boulder, Shibata met Rinpoche. When he arrived, he knew nothing about the Shambhala community and was surprised by the level of Rinpoche's students and saw a belief in the self that match the ideas of Kyudo. Rinpoche, the grandson of a bow maker in Tibet, connected with Shibata and his teachings.²⁵

Shibata had been vocal about his desire to establish a Kyudojo for international students who adhered to philosophical approaches in practice instead of sport. Rinpoche encouraged Shibata to stay in Boulder to establish the first Kyudojo in the United States. The Boulder Shambhala community members owned the house and property at 4220 19th Street in Boulder. For a time, it was used as a Shambhala school.²⁶ In 1980, Shibata began living at the house. County assessor records note that the property was sold in 1983 to Onyumishi Kanjuro Shibata XX.²⁷

Rinpoche was a strong supporter of his friend, Shibata, and Kyudo. Together, Shibata and Rinpoche created Zenko and opened the Boulder Kyudojo at the eastern end of the 4220 19th Street property. Many of the first students were from the Shambhala community because of the community's presence in Boulder.²⁸ Sensei and some earlier students often demonstrated Kyudo at during public events. Shambhala Buddhism traditions have been part of the Boulder Kyudojo tradition since its creation. For example, the Right of Passage occurs at eight (8), the earliest age to begin Kyudo. Sensei was very involved in teaching young children Kyudo.²⁹

Not all the students were or have been associated with the Shambhala community or Buddhism. While the early years did have great connection with Shambhala Buddhism, over the years the Kyudojo has become a community practice connected to people from all walks of life. Some students identify as Buddhist while many do not. Some students want to learn Kyudo specifically while others want to learn all types of archery skills, including Kyudo, to enhance their lives.³⁰

In the following years, Kanjuro Shibata XX opened other Kyudojos around the United States, including California, New Mexico, and Vermont. However, he continued to live and work at the Boulder Kyudojo. As his students moved, they brought Kyudo to new areas of the country and the world.³¹

²⁴ Associated Press. "Buddhist Leader Dies; Started Centers in U.S." The New York Times. April 8, 1987.

²⁵ Rich, Vajra; Rich, Michael. Interview with Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XX. The Chronicles. 2010.

²⁶ Pechota, Damion. Interview with Jimmy White. May 4, 2024.

²⁷ Boulder County Assessor's Office. Property Search. 4220 19th Street.

²⁸ Pechota, Damion. Interview with Jimmy White. May 4, 2024.

²⁹ Pechota, Damion. Interview with Jimmy White. May 4, 2024.

³⁰ Pechota, Damion. Interview with Jimmy White. May 4, 2024.

³¹ Zenko International. About Zenko International. Zenko International Kyudojo and Practice Groups.

SECTION III

Property Description

Use of Property

Historic [List all that apply. Any known historical uses should be listed]

The property was built as a residence in 1964. The house, not included in this nomination's boundary, is extant. The garage, now the Indoor Practice/Meditation Hall, was built shortly after the house's construction to serve as a mechanics workshop. The house was occupied by the Shambhala community sometime in the late 1970s. They used the house for varying purposes, including a school. Onyumishi Kanjuro Shibata XX started living at the property in 1980. He took ownership of the property in 1983 and constructed the Kyudojo as it is today. Since his passing in 2013, Onyumishi Kanjuro Shibata XX's granddaughter, Aki Shikami, has owned and lived in the house and run the property, including the Kyudojo.

Current Use [List all that apply.]

The Kyudojo is still operating on the eastern portion of the property at 4220 19th Street.

Original Owner [If known]

Unknown. Onyumishi Kanjuro Shibata XX took ownership of the property in 1983.

Source of Information: Assessor's Office

Architectural Style

The Practice Hall is a Kinteki-dojo style Kyudojo based on Japanese traditions. The accompanying Indoor Practice/Meditation Hall is a simple cinder block garage.

Year of Construction: The house was built in 1964 and the garage was built later as a mechanics workshop. The Kyudojo was built, connected to the garage, in 1983 after Onyumishi Kanjuro Shibata XX acquired ownership of the property.

Source of Information: Assessors Office, Site Maps, and Interview with Jimmy White.

Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer [List all that apply]

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Engineer: Unknown

Designer: Unknown, although it is likely that Onyumishi Kanjuro Shibata XX played an important part in the Kyudojo's design.

SECTION IV

Architectural Description and Integrity

Photographs

A full set of current photographs is required. Please provide a photograph of each side of the resource, interesting features or elements, some interior photographs to convey how the space is used, any additions or changes to the original resource, and any historic photographs that show the use over time.

Photographs can be submitted in a PDF or Word document, or in a Google Drive submitted at the same time this form is submitted.

For PDFs or Word Documents, please include a label for each photograph provided describing the direction or details necessary to understand the photograph.

For Google Drive documents, please provide a short description (i.e. "East Side" or "Close-up of Window") in the saved image name.

Date(s) photos were taken: **May 6, 2024**

Locational Status

Is the resource(s) in its original location?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

If no, when was the resource(s) moved to current location? **N/A**

Use online map to find the longitude and latitude of the resource.

Longitude: **40°03'03"N**

Latitude: **105°16'17"W**

What is the resource's boundary?

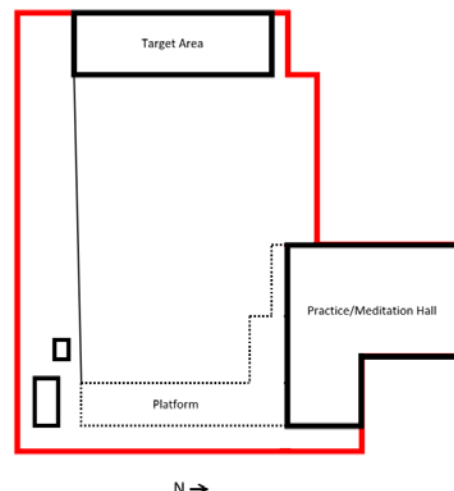
[Please describe the boundary of the entire area proposed for the register. This may be the footprint of the resource, street names surrounding the resource's area, property lines, or physical features. Please see the accompanying *How to Nominate a Property to the State Register* document for a definition of terms.]

The southern boundary is the fence that separate the parking area from the Kyudojo.

The eastern boundary is the end of the bench in the waiting area to the edge of the building.

The northern boundary follows the boundary of the Practice/Meditation Hall building and along the edge of the path to the target area.

The western boundary is the western side of the target area building.



Resource Description

Date(s) site was last visited by the applicant: **May 6, 2024**

Overview of Resource

[Describe the original and current appearance of the property, including architectural style, building materials, landscaping, setting, etc.]

The Boulder Kyudojo retains all the features of a Kinteki-dojo, including the 28-meter arrow path from the establishing position on the platform to the center of the sand in the target bank. An entrance gate greets the students before entering the platform. A waiting area with benches is located behind the platform for students waiting for their turn to practice. The Boulder practice hall has two arrow-collecting paths the students use to retrieve the arrows from the sand target bank and return the arrows to the students on the platform. Two marker boxes, where individuals wait to collect the arrows and manage the target bank, are located on either side of the target bank. International standards do not specify the width of the Practice Halls.

Description of Resource

[Please provide a description of each side of the resource(s). Make sure to note any character defining features of the resource or hallmarks of architectural styles. Please check History Colorado's Historic Architecture and Engineering Guide for more information.]

The property consists of two main buildings—the indoor practice and meditation hall and the target building for the outdoor practice area. In addition, there is a gate, a lantern, and the outdoor practice hall landscape design. Below is a detailed description of each resource within the property.

The Indoor Practice/Meditation Hall

The Indoor Practice and Meditation Hall (Photo 3), originally built as a mechanics workshop and garage, is located on the northeast section of the site boundary. The students use the building for indoor practice and meditation at the start and end of each session.

The south side of the Hall is constructed of simple cinderblock painted white. On the western section is a wood door painted brown. A two-pane window at the door height is located directly to the west. Near the center is a six vertical and four horizontal wood garage door painted brown. Three by four panels in the center are glass. At the eastern addition is a slightly sloping roof with wood flashing. A natural wood panel with a *koshi*-style (vertical wood slat) window continues under the slightly sloping roof.

The hall's east side (Photo 7) includes the original garage building and extension. The extension has a wood-paneled small porch area (where students remove their shoes) and a metal door set in rough cinder block painted white. The original garage is cinder block painted white with two vertical pane windows.

The north side of the building includes the original garage and the addition. The addition is rough cinder block painted white, with a sloping roof to the east and no windows or doors. The original garage is cinder block painted white, with two vertical-pane windows.

The west side (Photo 8) is the original garage with cinder block painted white and no doors. There are two boarded-up windows. The windows have been boarded up the entire time the property has been used as a Kyudojo.

Target Area Building

The Target Area building (Photo 20) is located on the property boundary's western edge.

The south side (Photo 18) is a brown rough cinder block with grey grout on the lower portion and a vertical light grey wood panel on the upper portion. The roof line slopes down from west to east, with wood flashing along the asphalt roof line. An opening with no door is located on the eastern portion of the side.

The east side is the main façade of the building that faces the outdoor practice hall. Across the entire top section is a vertical wood painted a light grey. About one-third from the south and one-third from the north are circular shields with the Shibata crest. The roof slopes down significantly from west to east with charcoal asphalt. In the middle of the building is a side-gabled roof with charcoal asphalt. The center of the side gable is vertical wood painted black with a wood flashing painted light grey. In the middle of the side gable is a quadrennial shield with red, blue, gold, and white sections, and the Shibata circular crest is in the middle. On the south section's lower portion is a vertical wood siding painted light grey with a small koshi-style (vertical wood slat) window. The middle section is open, where the arrows are shot into and collected. The north section's lower portion has vertical wood siding painted light grey with a small koshi-style (vertical wood slat) window.

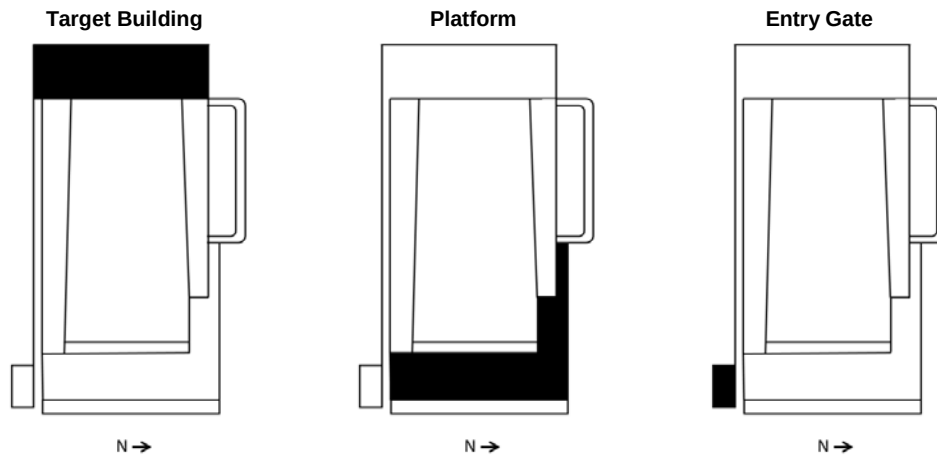
The north side (Photo 14) is a rough brown cinder block with grey grout on the lower portion and a light grey vertical wood panel on the upper portion. The roof line slopes down from west to east with a wood flashing along the asphalt roof line. An opening with no door is located on the eastern portion of the side.

The west side (Photo 19) of the building is a rough brown cinder block with grey grout on the lower portion and a vertical wood panel painted light grey on the upper portion. The upper portion also includes a one-pane glass window on the south section. The middle area includes eight one-pane square windows in a horizontal ribbon. On the north section is a wood door painted brown.

Outdoor Practice Hall

The term Kyudojo signifies a practice hall of Kyudo. The practice hall (Photo 4) must meet specific traditional requirements, including a standing platform, an open arrow path, and a target base with spaces for arrow runners and judges/teachers. The practice hall is the outdoor area where students practice and the main part of the Kyudojo property. The Boulder Kyudojo is designed using the traditional Kinteki-dojo Practice Hall form, as explained above in the Statement of Significance for Criteria C section.

The Practice Hall section of the Kyudojo has three built resources: the target building on the west, the platform on the east (Photo 2), and the entry gate (Photo 1) on the southeast corner.



A full description of the resource's outdoor practice hall, including the connection to Kinteki-dojo landscape architecture, is provided in the significance section. The Boulder Kyudojo meets all the requirements of a practice hall. In addition, it is the first recorded Kyudojo in Colorado and likely the United States.

Entry Gate

The entry gate is located on the southeast section of the property. The structure is made entirely of wood with a gabled roof that slopes to the south and north. To the south of the entry gate are two stone markers with Kan-ji inscriptions.

Platform

The platform, where the students stand during their practice, is located on the east side of the property and extends slightly to the west along the south edge of the Practice/Meditation Hall. The platform is slightly raised off the ground and is constructed entirely of wood. The wood on the east section has recently been replaced. Closer to the Practice/Meditation Hall has not been replaced and is slightly more worn.

What is the interior of resource like?

[If applicable, provide a brief description.]

There are two buildings in the property boundary. One building is not entirely enclosed, while the other, originally built as a garage, is entirely enclosed with an extension to the east.

Target building

The target building is located on the southwest part of the property. It is not entirely enclosed. The west side of the building is enclosed with cinderblock. On the south side of the building is a small waiting room with a bench. There are no closed doors in this space. There is an identical room on the north side. In between is the target range, which is entirely open on the east side and partially open on the south and north. The west side is enclosed with cinder block. The

entire space in filled with sand (Photo 16), used to catch the arrows when fired. The sand is regularly replaced, but the space has always been sand as is the custom for Kyudojos.

The Indoor Practice/Meditation Hall

The Indoor Practice/Meditation Hall (Photo 9) was originally constructed as a garage by a previous owner.

The main entrance to the building is from the east. There is a covered porch where individuals remove and store their shoes. The entrance is a small space where the bows are stored.

The main room of the building is completely open. The cinderblock walls are exposed and painted. The ceiling is covered by exposed insulation. There are heat lamps that run the length of the building from south to north. On the northeast corner, there is an old stove that was used to heat the space. Since this is a practice and meditation area, the room has been intentionally left open.

On the south wall is a large garage door that opens onto the practice area.

What alterations or changes have occurred to the resource over time?

[If applicable, provide a description of each alteration of the original resource (including new materials, roof, doors, windows, porches, additions, and any other changes). Provide an exact or estimated date for each alteration listed.]

Few changes have occurred over time. The buildings have remained the same as when they were originally used for the Kyudojo beginning in 1983. The known changes are provided below.

Part of the wooden platform was replaced in 2023. The previous wood had been damaged by water and sun over the years. The same wood size, type, color, and shape was used to reconstruct the platform.

A green, wooden fence was, at one time, at the eastern edge of the property. This has been taken down to allow a view to the natural area to the east.

There is no running water on the site. As a result, a compostable toilet was added to the site, to the northeast of the Indoor Practice/Meditation building and to the north of the building's main entrance.

Integrity

The Boulder Kyudojo is in its original location and has had only minor changes since its original design in 1980. Most importantly, it has retained its use as a Kyudo practice hall and design elements as set by traditional Kinteki-dojo style. The Boulder Kyudojo has great integrity of location, setting, design, material, workmanship, association, and feeling.

Location

[Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. What is the resource's location? Is this the original location? If not, where was the original location, where is the present location, and why was it relocated?]

The Kyudojo and all related buildings are in their original location.

Setting

[Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. Please describe the area around the resource. Is the setting the same as the period of significance? How has it changed?]

The Kyudojo is located to the east of the house, which is set along 19th Street. Houses from when the Kyudojo was built, or fit appropriately within the neighborhood, are located around the Kyudojo, but primarily to the north and south. To the east is small wooded area that is shared by varying properties. This gives the Kyudojo a secluded setting, despite being located within a neighborhood that predates the practice hall. No major changes have occurred to the setting.

Design

[Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a property. What are the character defining features of the resource? Have any of those features changed over time?]

The Kyudojo retains all its original design elements and all the landscape and building design standards that make it a Kinteki-dojo in the Kyudo tradition. The garage has maintained its design as an indoor practice area after being converted from a workshop in 1980.

Materials

[Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. What are the materials used for the construction of the resource? Are these the same materials that existed in the original form of the resource?]

Very few changes have occurred on the site prior to its original construction. As a result, most of the original materials remain, particularly for the garage and the target area. The platform was redone due to damaged wood in 2019. The wood that replaced the damaged wood is appropriate and fits with the overall design and feel of the practice hall. The landscape has seen minor changes, with more natural grasses and landscaping over time.

Workmanship

[Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. How was the resources and materials crafted? Is this maintained?]

The Kyudojo retains the workmanship of the buildings, with no changes occurring during its use, and the landscape design as set by traditional Kinteki-dojo practice halls.

Association

[Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.]

The Kyudojo has remained unchanged from its time when Sensei lived and worked on the site. The practice hall is still used every week by the students, so it continues its association with the Kyudo community as a Kyudojo.

Feeling

[Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.]

Property Name: Boulder Kyudojo

County: Boulder

The Kyudojo feels like a special place that would fit well within a Japanese community, but is unique in Boulder and Colorado. The property retains all the elements and designs of a traditional features of a Kinteki-dojō, including an entrance gate, platform, and 28 meter arrow path from the establishing position to the center of the sand in the target bank. This design maintains the feeling of a Kyudo practice hall that is an internal facing, natural, and reflective space. This all maintains the Kyudojo's feeling as a place for practicing Kyudo, but doing so in a space that allows for personal and philosophical reflection.

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[Please cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form. Please see the accompanying *How to Nominate a Property to the State Register*, page 14, for proper citation examples.]

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County: Boulder

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Property Name: Boulder Kyudojo

County: Boulder

Preparer of Nomination

Name: **Damion Pechota**

Organization: **History Colorado**

Address: **1200 Broadway**

City: **Denver**

State: **Colorado**

Zip: **80203**

Phone: **720-262-1042**

Date: **May 31, 2024**

Property Name: Boulder Kyudojo

County: Boulder

History Colorado Use Only

Local Designation

Has the property received local historic designation?

☒ no

☐ yes --- ☐ individually designated ☐ designated as part of a historic district

Date designated: **N/A**

Designated by [Name of municipality or county]: **N/A**

Property Type: ☒ building(s) ☐ district ☒ site ☐ structure ☐ object ☐ area

Architectural Style/Engineering Type:

Period of Significance:

Level of Significance: ☐ Local ☐ State ☐ National

Multiple Property Submission:

Acreage:

P.M. _____ Township _____ Range _____ Section _____ Quarter _____ Sections _____

UTM Reference: Zone _____ Easting _____ Northing _____ NAD83 _____

Site Elevation:

Mapping

Longitude:

Latitude:

Photograph Log

The following information pertains to the photographs that accompany this nomination.

Property: Boulder Kyudojo

Location: 4220 19th Street, Boulder, Colorado

Photographer: Damion Pechota

Date of Photographs: May 6, 2024

Photo No. Photographic Information

Photo 1: Entry gate, looking north.

Photo 2: Platform, looking north.

Photo 3: South façade on Indoor Practice Hall, looking north.

Photo 4: Looking west toward target area.

Photo 5: Looking west along western section of platform.

Photo 6: Looking north at Indoor Practice hall extension and entryway.

Photo 7: East façade of Indoor Practice Hall.

Photo 8: West façade of Indoor Practice Hall.

Photo 9: Inside the Indoor Practice Hall, looking north.

Photo 10: Inside the Indoor Practice Hall, looking northwest toward the western hall.

Photo 11: Inside the Indoor Practice Hall, looking southwest.

Photo 12: Bow area in the extension to the Indoor Practice Hall.

Photo 13: Looking east toward the platform and entry gate.

Photo 14: North entry to target area.

Photo 15: North entry, looking south, into target area.

Photo 16: Sand in the target area, looking south.

Photo 17: Seating area on the south side of the target area.

Photo 18: South entrance to the target area, looking north.

Photo 19: West façade of the target area.

Photo 20: East façade of the target area.

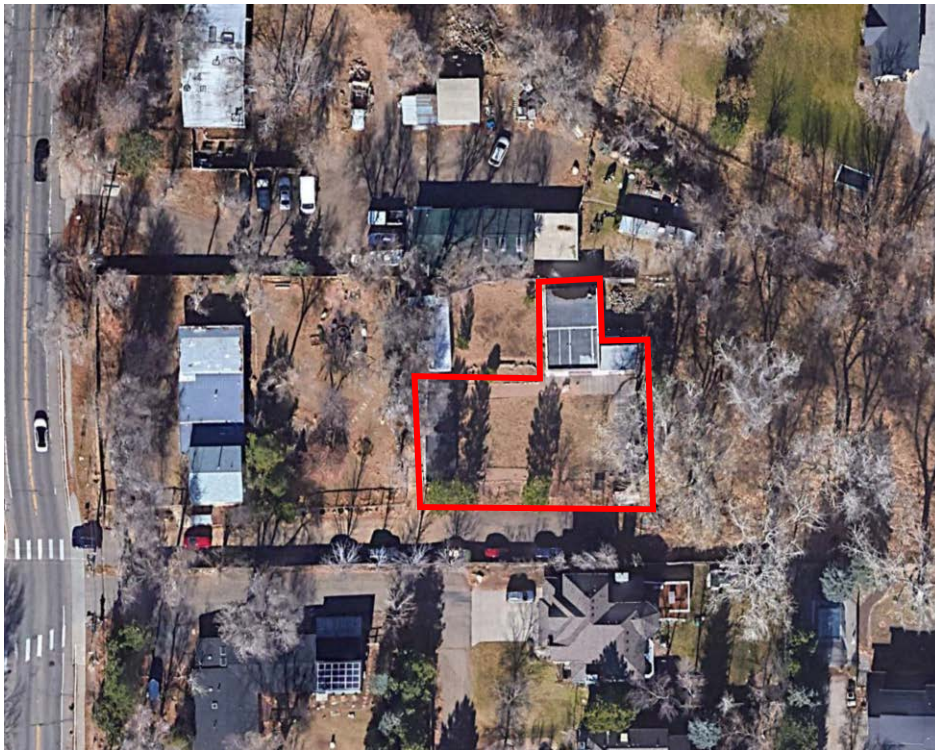
Photo 21: Looking north across the Practice Hall.

Photo 22: Looking West across the Practice Hall, from the Entry Gate.

Map of Site



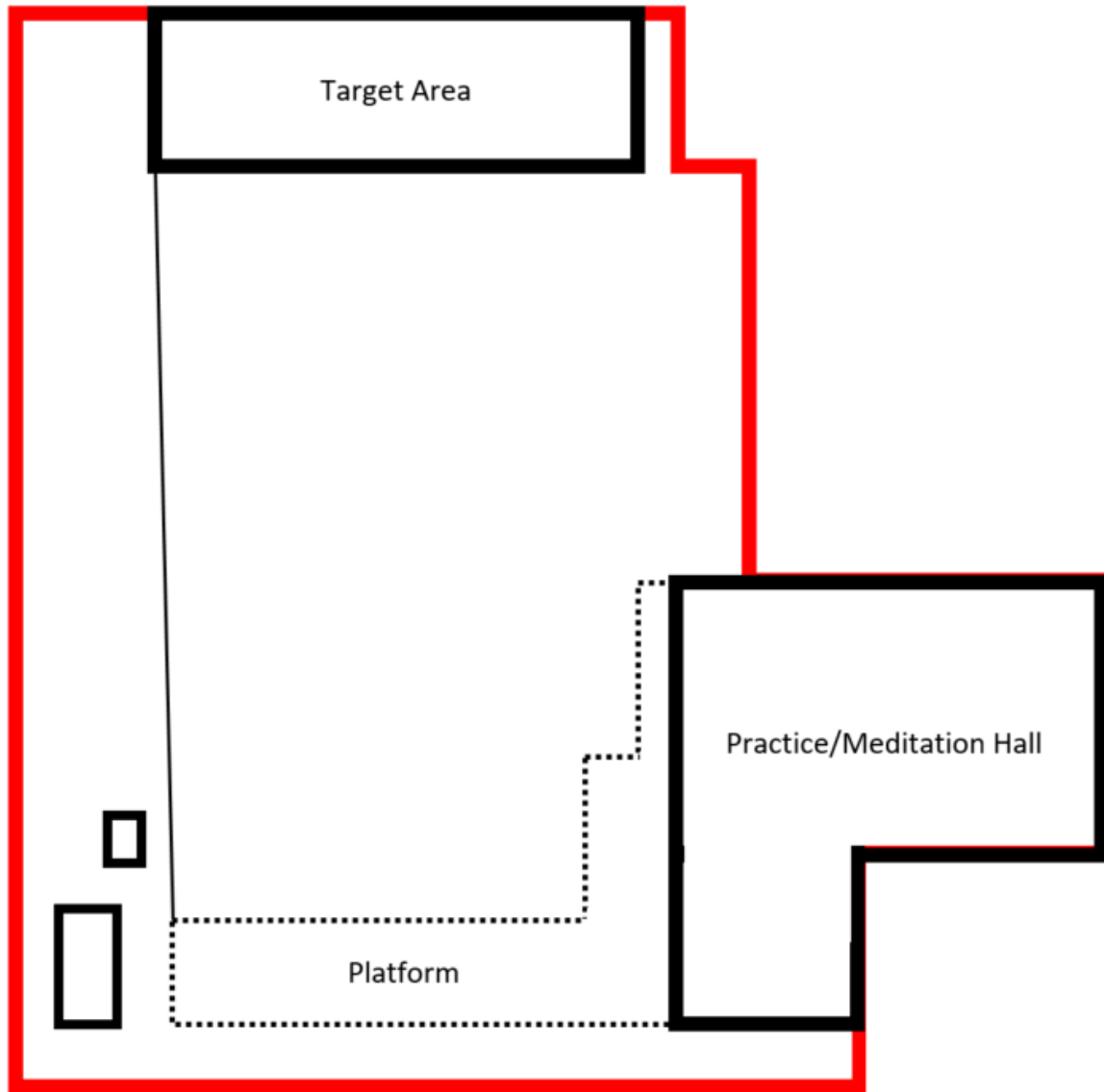
200 m



40 m

Site Sketch

[If applicable]



N →

Property Name: Boulder Kyudojo

County: Boulder



Photo of Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XIX, grandfather and predecessor of Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XX. Date unknown.



Photo of Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XX, who established the Boulder Kyudojo. Date unknown.

Property Name: Boulder Kyudojo

County: Boulder



Photo of Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XX. Date unknown.

<https://www.chronicleproject.com/onyumishi-kanjuro-shibata-xx-sensei/>



Photo of Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XX in the Kyudojo. Date unknown.

<https://www.dralamountain.org/letter-director-passing-shibata-sensei-xx/>

Property Name: Boulder Kyudojo

County: Boulder



Photo Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XX in the Kyudojo. Date unknown.



Photo of Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XXI, the current Shibata and head of Zenko. Date unknown.

Property Name: Boulder Kyudojo

County: Boulder



Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XX works with a student in the Indoor Practice Hall at the Boulder Kyudojo. Date unknown.

Property Name: Boulder Kyudojo

County: Boulder



Alex, a student who began training under Kanjuro Shibata Sensei XX in 1980, stands on the platform at the Boulder Kyudojo Practice Hall. Date unknown.

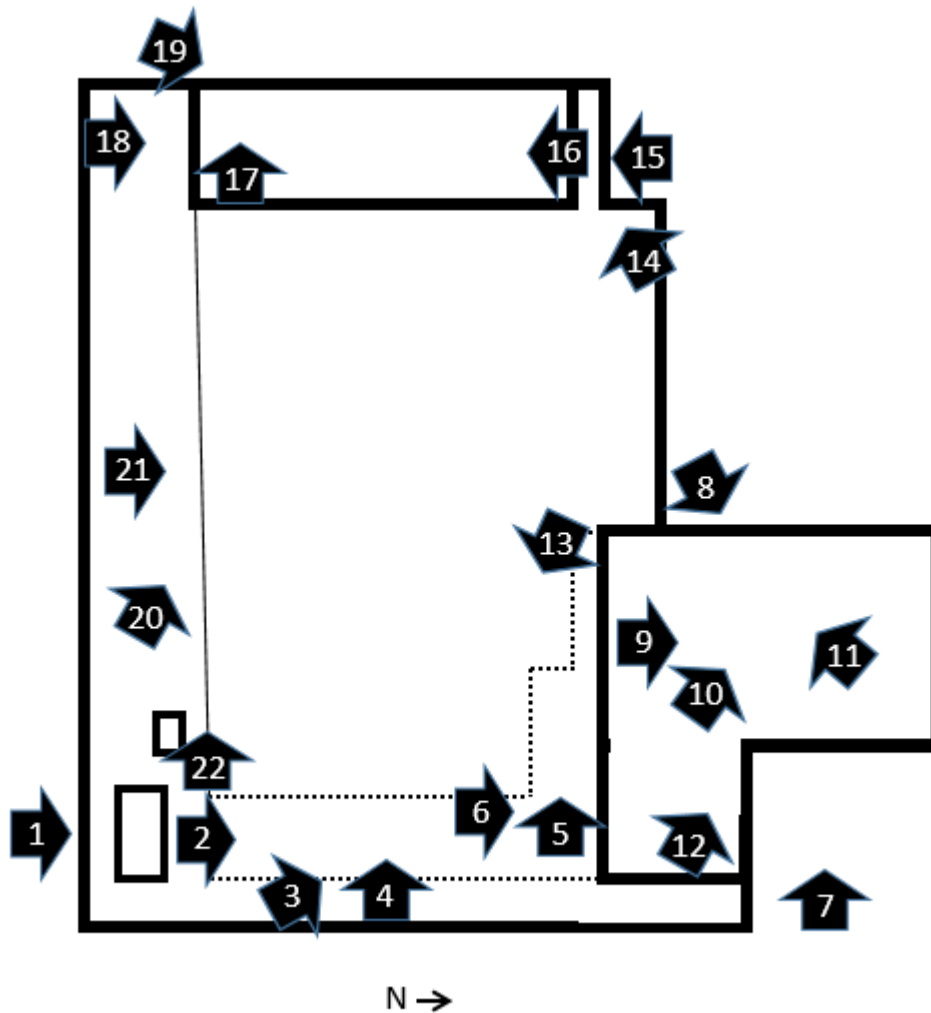


Students practice on the platform at the Boulder Kyudojo Practice Hall. Date unknown.



Students pose on the platform at the Boulder Kyudojo Practice Hall. Date unknown.

Current Photographs



COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Property Name: Boulder Kyudojo

County: Boulder



Photo 1: Entry gate, looking north.



Photo 2: Platform, looking north.

Property Name: Boulder Kyudojo

County: Boulder



Photo 3: South façade on Indoor Practice Hall, looking north.



Photo 4: Looking west toward target area.



Photo 5: Looking west along western section of platform.



Photo 6: Looking north at Indoor Practice hall extension and entryway.



Photo 7: East façade of Indoor Practice Hall.



Photo 8: West façade of Indoor Practice Hall.



Photo 9: Inside the Indoor Practice Hall, looking north.



Photo 10: Inside the Indoor Practice Hall, looking northwest toward the western hall.

Property Name: Boulder Kyudojo

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Photo 11: Inside the Indoor Practice Hall, looking southwest.



Photo 12: Bow area in the extension to the Indoor Practice Hall.

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Photo 13: Looking east toward the platform and entry gate.



Photo 14: North entry to target area.



Photo 15: North entry, looking south, into target area.



Photo 16: Sand in the target area, looking south.

Property Name: Boulder Kyudojo

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Photo 17: Seating area on the south side of the target area.



Photo 18: South entrance to the target area, looking north.



Photo 19: West façade of the target area.



Photo 20: East façade of the target area.



Photo 21: Looking north across the Practice Hall.



Photo 22: Looking West across the Practice Hall, from the Entry Gate.