



WIND BLEW WATER ONTO FIREMAN DAVE COOPER

Fire Razes Former Hotel

By PAT McGRAW
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BROOMFIELD—A fire of undetermined origin Sunday afternoon destroyed one of the first commercial buildings constructed in this suburban community, the old Broomfield Hotel, 7435 W. 120th Ave.

Winds gusting to 35 miles an hour complicated efforts by the West Adams County Fire Department to extinguish the blaze in the decades-old, two-story, wooden building, Chief Earl Stonehocker said.

Occupants of the seven apartments in the building escaped without incident, he said, and a small cut to a fireman was the only injury of the day.

Damage was estimated unofficially at more than \$20,000.

Stonehocker said it isn't known where or why the fire broke out, but it appears it may have started in a shoe-repair shop whose operator is on vacation. The building also housed an appliance-repair shop and an antique store.

Investigation of the blaze was to continue Monday, he said.

The Broomfield Police Department reported that U.S. 287 through the city was closed from about 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. because a five-inch fire hose had to be laid across the street.

Officers from the Boulder County Sheriff's office, the Colorado State Patrol, and the Lafayette and Louisville Police Departments helped local police control traffic and crowds gathering at the scene.

Stonehocker said a freight train on the Colorado & Southern Railway track near the fire was delayed briefly because of hoses laid across the rails.

Don Carpenter of 7160 Clay St., Westminster, owner of the building, described it as a total loss.

There are at least two versions of the history of the building. Carpenter said he had been told it was constructed as a hotel in 1883. It later served as the Broomfield Post Office and was remodeled into apartments and three retail stores about 12 years ago.

Don Archer, a Broomfield resident since 1925, said the building was constructed in 1906 and was first used as the post office, a general store and pool hall.

Stonehocker said about 30 firemen and five pieces of equipment, including a "cherry picker" owned by Public Service Co. of Colorado, were used to fight the fire, which was first reported at 1:41 p.m. All fire trucks returned to their stations by 6:48 p.m.

He estimated it took about 20 minutes to contain the blaze which, because of high winds, threatened a nearby service station and a shed full of firewood before firemen arrived.



ASSISTANT CHIEF D.

