

APPENDIX H:

**DETAILS REGARDING SEARCH FOR LOCATION OF KENT
METEOROLOGICAL STATION
AND PHOTOS OF LOCATION AND STATION OPERATORS**

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Search for NCAR Kent meteorological station

July 1, 1998

R. Meyer and J. Weber went to NCAR in Boulder to search for information related to the location of the Kent meteorological station in the late 1960s. The station was a portable anemometer station temporarily located for use in a study of wind waves and gusts along the Front Range.

We visited the NCAR library located at Table Mesa in Boulder, Colorado. The NCAR librarian (Ms. Gray) helped us locate the report that utilized the wind data from the stations, but a specific location of the station was still not identified within that document.

The NCAR librarian made some phone calls and located individuals who had been involved in that research project, Joe Klemp (still employed at NCAR) and Doug Lilly (project leader, now employed by the University of Oklahoma, 405-325-6561, dlilly@tornado.gcn.uoknor.edu). Joe Klemp recalled that the Kent station was located near the intersection of 55th Street and South Boulder Road at the home of a couple with the last name Kent. This led us to the phone book where we found an address and phone number for Joseph Kent that looked to be in the correct area. A phone call to this number revealed that the Kents did, in fact, have an NCAR weather station at their home in the late 1960s. They allowed us to come to their home to see the location of the former station.

Joseph and Beth Kent (303-554-9091) live at 5691 South Boulder Road. This address is located about 430 yards north and 300 yards east of the intersection at 55th Street and South Boulder Road. The Kents moved to that location in 1964 and owned the very first house in the area. Though the land around their home is now surrounded by sub-divisions and trees, during the years that the sampler was in place the area was a wide open space on a flat plain east of Boulder. Theirs was the only home in the entire area, thus providing an ideal location for an anemometer. The anemometer tower was about 10 – 15 feet tall, with cables that ran under the ground and into the house for power and to transmit data. Beth changed the paper in the anemometer and carefully noted the date and time on the sheets. About once a month, someone from NCAR would come out and recalibrate the anemometer to ensure that all the stations in the network were operating the same. Joe and Beth took great pride in their involvement in this project, and were very careful and conscientious about making certain that the chart was aligned properly and the data was being recorded for the correct time, as noted on the chart.

Joe and Beth showed us the precise location of the tower on their property, and this location was photographed for the record. We spoke with them for some time about wind storms, and they vividly recall “the biggest wind storm” they remember, which, from their recollections, appears to be the January 7, 1969 wind event. During this event, they had a shed in which they housed peacocks literally explode as a gust of wind hit it and blew debris about 100 yards into an adjacent field. Beth, standing outside during this incident on her way to close the shed door, can vouch for the fact that the wind came straight out of the west, down a little alley created in their yard between a fence and their home, and picked up the shed before her very eyes.

The NCAR Table Mesa station

We also went to Table Mesa to find information about the location of the anemometer that provided us the wind charts from that location. Information we had received thus far indicated that the tower was located on top of the building. We spoke with NCAR employees who confirmed that the NACR building has been at the Table Mesa location since 1960. They recalled the anemometer always being located on top of the building in the same location. We took photographs of this anemometer as well.



Two photos at the Kent home in East Boulder, summer of 1998. Upper photo is Mr. Kent indicating the former location of the Kent portable meteorological station. According to Mr. Kent, this area was open with no trees when the station was operating (late 1960's). The lower photo is taken from the approximate location of the meteorological station, looking west toward the mountains. The view is in the approximate direction of the NCAR facility, and roughly along the

line of temporary meteorological stations running from west to east, and beyond the Kent station. The Kents were responsible for maintaining the strip chart system that produced the Kent wind charts used in this dose reconstruction. (Photos by R.Meyer.)