

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0682284

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 14 1978

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

City and County Building

AND/OR COMMON

City-County Building

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

19th Street and Carey Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wyoming

CODE

56

COUNTY

Laramie

CODE

021

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Laramie County

STREET & NUMBER

19th Street and Carey Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming 82001

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City-County Building

STREET & NUMBER

19th Street and Carey Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82001

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Wyoming Recreation Commission, Survey of Historic Sites, Markers and Monuments

DATE

1967 (revised 1973)

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Wyoming Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in Cheyenne, the City-County Building is a three-story rectangular building of composite construction. Materials used in the construction of this building include concrete, brick, stone, marble, and steel. Most of the construction materials came from Wyoming and Colorado. However, it is quite interesting to note that stone came from as far as Bedford, Indiana, and marble from Salt Lake City, Utah. Eighty-one feet wide by one hundred and twenty-seven feet long, the building houses offices of Laramie County and the City of Cheyenne, as well as the Laramie County District Court.

The architectural style of the City-County Building is Classic Revival. Typical of this style, the building incorporates a rusticated limestone base and arched first floor windows in relief. Brick veneer is used from the top of the base to the roofline. Some features of the building are pediments at the entrances and twelve Ionic columns—eight on the south facade, four on the east. Characteristics of these are distinct bases; capitals with large volutes; slender shafts with slight tapers; and a smooth, plain finish. The roof of the building is flat and of reinforced concrete slab construction.

The interior of the building is in excellent condition. Very few changes have been made to the original interior features. Perhaps the most significant change is the proposed replacement of the old steam heating system by a modern one. Stairways are of iron and steel, and railings are of ornamental wrought iron with wood handrails. Marble work consists of wainscoting along entrances, first, second, and ground floor corridors, in the courtroom, and the plinths of door casings. All wainscotings have a dark Tennessee base and white, Italian dado and cap. The overall height of the wainscoting is four and one-half feet.

Although the City-County Building houses many offices, including that of the author of this nomination, the most beautiful room in the building is the Laramie County District Courtroom. Located on the third floor, the spacious room has decorative columns on the interior side walls. The columns are of the Doric Order, characterized by fluted shafts and distinct bases as well as capitals. The three lights in the ceiling of the courtroom are glazed with beautiful art glass. The middle ceiling light bears the great seal of the State of Wyoming. Most of the original lighting fixtures in this room are still functional.

An annex was added to the building in 1957 at the southwest corner. It is a single-story, reinforced concrete structure and houses the offices of the Laramie County Civil Defense Department. At this point in time the annex should not be considered, for the purposes of this nomination, as part of the historic City and County Building.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <b>Repository</b>
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		<b>for Historic Government- Related Records.</b>

SPECIFIC DATES 1917-1919

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William R. Dubois-Architect  
John W. Howard-Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The City-County Building, completed in 1919, is significant for its historic associations with the development of the City of Cheyenne and Laramie County governments. The building is a fine example of the Classic Revival Style, and is significant for the quality of its craftsmanship and detailing.

Originally, the City of Cheyenne and Laramie County had separate administrative buildings, known as the City Hall and Courthouse, respectively. The idea of combining the two buildings into one to reduce maintenance expenditures occurred to Mr. Warren Richardson, who was Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. The county and city officials met in November, 1914 to consider this proposition, and it was decided that a building should be built. Construction of the City and County Building was begun in 1917 and completed in 1919. William R. Dubois was the architect, and John H. Howard was the building contractor. This act of cooperation between two levels of government was very significant, in that it saved the citizens of Laramie County a lot of money. As a matter of fact, the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which was the cost of the building, was paid in cash as the building was being built.

Originally, the City-County Building housed fourteen county and six city offices, along with courts for each level of government. Additionally, the United States Internal Revenue and Prohibition Offices were also located here. Currently, the building houses most county offices and a few city offices, including the Mayor's Office. The courts for both governments are still being housed in the building.

The site of the City-County Building has some very interesting history behind it. The original Laramie County Courthouse, built in 1873, stood on the same site. It was the second courthouse erected in Wyoming Territory, and served as the Wyoming Territorial Capitol Building for the 1873 Legislative Session. The most famous case heard in this courthouse was that of a former Indian scout, and later cattle detective, Tom Horn. During this period of Wyoming's growth, violence was a way of life, especially when cattle were involved. Accused of killing the 13-year-old son of a sheep rancher by the name of Willie Nickell, Horn was subsequently tried and found guilty. Despite numerous attempts to escape from the county jail, Tom Horn was hung on November 20, 1903 at the corner of 19th Street and Pioneer Avenue. Tom Horn's conviction and execution raised a lot of doubts, and to some this mystery will never be completely solved. The original Laramie County Courthouse was razed in 1917, but the legend continues, and the site of the present City-County Building is part of that legend.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Addendum - Item 9

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Cheyenne North, Wyoming

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,3 | 5,1,5 | 2,5,10 | 4,5,15,3 | 5,6,10 |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

South 1/2 of Block 292, Original City of Cheyenne  
Bound on West by Pioneer Avenue; Bound on South by 19th Street; Bound on East by Carey Avenue; Bound on North by Mid-block alley.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Punda Pai, Senior Planner

ORGANIZATION

Cheyenne Laramie County Regional Planning Office

DATE

May 5, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Box 3232, 1700 Snyder Avenue

TELEPHONE

(307) 635-0186

CITY OR TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82001

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Jan L. Wilson*

TITLE Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE August 3, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-30-78

ATTEST:

*Charles R. Hume*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

*William H. Braham* 11-30-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 14 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 30 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET City-County Bldg. ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In 1944 another major trial took place in Laramie County District Court. Cheyenne Mayor Ira L. Hanna, Police Chief Jess B. Ekdall and G. J. Morris and E. I. Violette of the Cheyenne Police Department were accused of soliciting and accepting a protection bribe from Mrs. Lola West, a proprietor of a West Cheyenne cafe. The four were charged with twice soliciting and accepting \$100 from Mrs. West, but the defendants pleaded innocent and claimed that the money represented fines derived on gambling, prostitution, and the sale of liquor. A Laramie County jury found them guilty, and Hanna and Ekdall were sentenced to not less than seven years and not more than ten years at the State Penitentiary in Rawlins. The defendants received the verdict stoically while Mayor Hanna's wife burst into tears. According to Byron Hirst, who was the prosecuting attorney, Hanna served out his sentence. This trial proves that even the highest office holders are not immune from the law, and have to pay the penalty for their crimes. The City-County Building is therefore a living symbol of law and justice.

The City-County Building is also significant as a repository of Laramie County documents. For instance, more than 52,000 civil, probate and criminal court records have been filed at the Laramie County District Court, some of which are more than one hundred years old. Several water rights cases relating to Crow Creek, Little Horse Creek, and others have been filed in the court. The laws established on these cases during the early part of the century are still in effect, and many times they are referred to as exhibits on current cases.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 14 1978
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET City-County Bldg. ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

---

BOOKS:

- Harris, Cyril M. (editor). Historic Architecture Source Book. New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, 1977.
- Larson, T. A. History of Wyoming. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1965.
- Monaghan, Jay. Legend of Tom Horn - Last of the Bad Men. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill and Paine Company, 1946.
- Pain, Luran. Tom Horn - Man of the West. Barre, Massachusetts: Barre Publishing Company, 1963.

BOOKLETS, PAMPHLETS:

- Dubois, William. Specifications of Materials and Labor Required for the Construction and Completion of a City/County Building at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Cheyenne: available at City-County Building.
- Hansen, Lois Batalden. A Brief History of Cheyenne, Wyoming. Cheyenne: available at City of Cheyenne Community Redevelopment Agency, 1975. 43 pp.
- The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Wyoming. A Survey of Wyoming County Courthouses - Their History, Architecture, Documents, Proceedings and Personnel. (No publisher listed), 1972.
- Wyoming State Historical Society - Laramie County Chapter. Cheyenne Landmarks - A Pictorial Essay of Interesting Buildings in Cheyenne. Cheyenne: Pioneer Printing and Stationery Company, 1976. 18 pp.

INTERVIEWS:

- Pat Creech by Punda Pai. March, 1978.
- Byron Hirst by Punda Pai. March, 1978.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 11 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 30 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET City-County Bldg. ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

---

NEWSPAPERS:

"City/County Building," Wyoming State Tribune and Cheyenne State Leader,  
(Cheyenne, Wyoming). May 7, 1922. p. 12.

"Bruce Jones named acting Mayor: Four officials connected on Bribe Charges:  
Group being held in County Jail: Bonds not posted," Wyoming State Tribune,  
(Cheyenne, Wyoming). May 8, 1944. p. 1.

MISCELLANEOUS:

"Architects Drawings, City/County Building," Laramie County Engineer's Office,  
Cheyenne, Wyoming.

"Vertical files-Laramie County Clerk," Laramie County Clerk's Office, Cheyenne,  
Wyoming.

"Vertical files," Wyoming State Historical Department, Cheyenne, Wyoming.