

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0143138

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 4 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 27 1975

**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
Pueblo County Courthouse
AND/OR COMMON
Pueblo County Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
10th and Main

CITY, TOWN
Pueblo

STATE
Colorado

VICINITY OF
08

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
3

COUNTY
Pueblo

CODE
101

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input 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
Pueblo County

STREET & NUMBER
10th and Main

CITY, TOWN
Pueblo

STATE
Colorado

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
10th and Main

CITY, TOWN
Pueblo

STATE
Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1930's</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 60 year old courthouse occupies one entire block in Pueblo at 10th and Main. It is faced with Turkey Creek white sandstone over brick walls two feet thick. The stone is cut and dressed and set in a stretcher bond. The stone was quarried and dressed at Stone City. Other stone used throughout the building consists of Colorado pink onyx for the lesser staircases and detail work, Vermont Earth-antique and Colorado Yule Marble for floors, counters, main staircases, ballustrades, and pillars. Bronze tables and bulletin boards, door hardware, and fixtures were used throughout. Gold leafing was liberally applied to capitals, stencil work, murals, and other decorative art on walls and ceilings.

The building was designed in the Roman Classical style of the Beaux-Arts Classical Revival. It carries something of the lines of the so-called Federalist Architecture, but lacks something of the unremitting sternness of that particular style. The building was designed by Albert R. Ross of New York (most of Pueblo's larger and its public structures show the eastern influence derived from the practice of getting designs from eastern architects). George W. Roe of Pueblo was engaged as the architect to supervise the actual construction according to Ross's design. Frank Taylor was hired to work as general contractor, by reason of his reputation of using local labor exclusively.

The courthouse floorplan is a cross between the H and the cruciform floorplan styles. (See copy of first floor floorplan). Each of the protruding facades at the ends and center of the north and south facades are distinguished by four fluted and detached Corinthian columns, which support a decorated pediment. The pediment over the main entry surrounds an elaborate tympanium. The facades which are set back are distinguished by smooth, engaged Corinthian Columns, five to a section. The most remarkable feature of the facade are the immense (both in size and numbers) casement windows. There are a total of 250 windows, all of which are designed to reach from floor to ceiling to allow for maximum admission of light and an artistic quality of spaciousness in the rooms. Those on the second story servicing the courtrooms and located on the set back portions of the south facade and the protruding portion of the north facade are nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories tall.

The main entry is distinguished by an elaborately carved semi-circular umbrage. A triangular hood juts out at the second story level over the doorway supporting a magnificent stone carving. The fanlight is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories in height-top^s the hood and illuminates the rotunda.

Overall is the dome, still a prominent feature of the Pueblo skyline. It is highly unusual for it is a double dome, with a large area between the two domes. It was a gem of sculptured terra cotta on the exterior. It was set off by night with 3000 incandescent bulbs. Eight circular windows transect the drum and the dome. Prisms were constructed at the windows to refract the light into the interior of the dome and refract natural light onto the mural work inside. A great deal of gold leaf work was designed to catch the light and the attention of visitors in the rotunda. A parapet wall with ballustrades, nicely carved, surrounds the dome on the raised portion of the building. A blind parapet wall

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accentuates the entire roof line. The Cornice of the entablature is repeated on the pediments.

On the interior, the courthouse is distinguished primarily by the stencil wall painting and murals of J. Charles Schnorr which occupies the walls of the rotunda, County Commissions' Chambers and the three courtrooms. This includes the canvas ceilings of the courtrooms. Gold leaf work accentuates the bolder portions of the designs. His stature as a regional painter as well as his Pueblo residency gives this work particular significance. He studied art in New York, Vienna, and Paris before moving west.

The floorplans for each story are fairly simple and forthright. The first floor is clustered around the rotunda with public transacting halls stretching to the east and west. Offices, vault and files occupy the auxiliary areas. The second floor contains some offices at the east and west extreme ends. The east and west main sections off the rotunda balcony comprise two of the courtrooms, and the third is located in the north wing of the building. Each of the courtrooms is two stories high and elaborately decorated with paintings, murals, and stencil work. Behind the Judicial Benches are applied pediments of the style of those on the exterior, supported by immense Corinthian columns with gold-leafed capitals. Below the pediments and framed by the columns are murals portraying the ideals of the judicial system. All the doorknobs are engraved with the county seal. The third floor is office space and excludes that area taken up by the courtrooms in their immense height. The third floor is in great disrepair at the moment.

The rotunda area soars 82 feet from the first floor to the dome. The detailed art work of the dome on the interior is concealed by dirt; the prisms also do not appear to work in their desired function except in the winter. The work on the outer dome is concealed by sheet metal painted gold.

The Pueblo courthouse is much the largest and most ornate public building of its nature in the southern section of the state, possibly surpassed only by the State Capitol Building and the Denver City and County Building in the Denver Civic Center. It has suffered very few alterations. The dome is the most obvious. The front entry has been modified, the wainscoting painted over throughout, the first floor murals painted out, the Treasurer's cages removed. All else, fixtures, paintings stencil workings, upper floor murals, gold leaf workings, and the onyx and marble work still remain. The exterior has suffered alterations only in the matters of the dome, the modification of the main entry and the boarding over of all the basement windows. Restoration work is planned.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1908 - 1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ross / Roe / Taylor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The courthouse is significant in the areas of Art, Architecture, and Politics. In the matter of Art the courthouse has an incredible display of paintings, murals, and stenciling on the walls and ceilings by Schnorr. Architecturally, the courthouse is perhaps the largest and most ornate structure of its kind in southern Colorado. In the field of politics the courthouse has been the proving grounds for men who have had the most dramatic kinds of impacts on the Colorado legal system and various political offices.

SIGNIFICANCE NARRATIVE

Present day Pueblo is situated in the Arkansas Valley, one of the richest agricultural districts of the southwest. It is close to some of the most breathtaking scenery. It is only a few miles from the popular Royal Gorge.

In the first years of the 1860's, Colorado remained under territorial legislation. Bent, Huerfano and Las Animas were to break away from Pueblo County. Governor Gilpin then appointed Baxter, Wooten, and Chapman as Pueblo's first County Commissioners. In 1862 they held their first Commissioners' proceedings, chaired by Wooten. It was obvious they needed a building.

A certain Mr. Perkins was alleged to have murdered Mr. Russell over a ranch dispute. Judge George Richmond presided over the case, releasing Perkins on bond. He skipped bail. The bondsmen had to pay the county \$1800.00 restitution. The county then used this money to finance their first courthouse. It was built of adobe and log with dirt floors for a cost of 300.00. The money remaining was used to purchase legal books and a seal, as well as to pay the judges.

Pueblo became the seat of the Third Federal district. The little old adobe building could not serve such a noble purpose.

The second, larger courthouse was built in 1871. It was designed by J.P. Barber who had designed several other notable Colorado Buildings. (The El Paso County Jail and the Almo Hotel in Colorado Springs) Barber did have competition on his \$25,000 bid. Halleck of Denver submitted a bid of \$17,747.00 but wanted the design to be French. Barber's plans were chosen. The price he quoted included establishing a square around the courthouse. The building was three stories high, brick, rectangular in a
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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pueblo Cheiftan Article, 1906-1912.
Courthouse Records.

Colorado History , Ubbelodhe, Benson, & Smith, "The New Santa Fe Trail & Rainbow Route in Colorado; Pueblo County Commissioners.

Colorado Magazine Vol 1, No. 4, May 24, Weston. "The Men With Whom I smiled"

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 5342120 42361380
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

st/AM

B [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Colo.

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

200 Fourteenth Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE

Colo State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/20/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/27/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6-26-75

[Handwritten Initials]

[Handwritten Signatures]

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colonial style with a southern plantation style portico. It had stone arches over all the windows and doors. The walls were two feet thick. The main entrance hall stretched the entire length of the building with offices to either side. The Courtroom encompassed all of the second floor. The third floor was rented out for office space. It was topped off by a sixteen foot high observatory (11 x 16 ft. square) and a twenty foot high flag staff.

Much was happening in the legal system in the new state of Colorado during the seventies. The judges that served Pueblo went on to serve the entire state. J.M. Waldron was elected District Attorney for Pueblo and later served as State Attorney. Judge Hallett was the first to gather and publish the legal volumes of court cases, Colorado Reports. He did this at his own expense. They are now an important part of Colorado's legal history. Judge Ebenzer Wells compiled the first reliable source of the Colorado Statutes. Judge Alan Bradford would go on to represent Colorado in the Nation's Congress.

The third and final Pueblo County Courthouse was built in 1908-1912 at the same location as the previous two, 10th and Main. On May 7, 1907 investigations were begun to establish if warrants could be used to pay for the construction of public buildings. May 24 a citizens committee met to discuss the courthouse construction. They decided to build a joint city and county building. The months of October, November and December were spent trying to initiate a tax levy for the costs. Finally January 7, 1908 it was resolved to allow architects to submit preliminary sketches for competition to be considered in March. Several plans were submitted by local architects, Casker, Gill and Rowe as well as by New York architect, Albert R. Ross. March 12 Ross was given the contract at his bid of \$400,000. He was to submit plans and specifications at this price including the proper heating systems, movable furniture, appropriate fixtures and decor. George Rowe, a Pueblo architect, was chosen to be the superintendent of construction. The building did not meet the cost. It was classed as a million dollar building in the newspapers, though it actually cost around \$750,000 (County Commissioner's record book #1).

The courthouse is architectually significant because it is the largest and most elaborate courthouse in southern Colorado. It is unique in its design for this area of the state. Local crews were used in the construction exclusively and many are the "guess-timates" of the amounts of whiskey and beer mixed in the mortar by the Irish and other ethnic workers.

The best idea of the significance of the architecture can be gained by referring to section 7 and to the photographs. The building is recognized as a significant Pueblo landmark today. Interior embellishments were added later after the construction dust had settled. The vast murals were painted in 1917 to depict the history of Pueblo. They were done by Schorr who moved from NY to Pueblo in 1910. He was 19 years old when he won an award from the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. His

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paintings hang in several public buildings and churches in Idaho, New Mexico, Texas, and Colorado. The most famous of his works is the mural in the NY Hippadrome called "The Thousand Horses." His paintings in the Pueblo County courthouse depict the manufacturing and industry that brought fame to Pueblo as well as the men who helped build the City and County. The pictures in the Courtrooms are of Kit Carson, Alan Bradford a U.S. Congressman, G.M. Chilcott a U.S. Land Officer, Harley Sanderson of the Barlow and Sanderson Stageline, Steven Smith and the first county recorder and postmaster, and Henry Thatcher a lawyer and member of the Colorado Supreme Court and its first Chief Justice.