

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 25 1980  
DATE ENTERED SEP 4 1980

**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

Littleton Town Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Littleton Center for Cultural Arts

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

2450 West Main Street

\_\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Littleton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

CODE

09

COUNTY

Arapahoe

CODE

005

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Littleton

STREET & NUMBER

2255 West Berry Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Littleton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80165

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Arapahoe County Administration Building

STREET & NUMBER

5334 South Prince

CITY, TOWN

Littleton

STATE

Colorado

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

(03/01/0010)

DATE

Ongoing

\_\_\_FEDERAL STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society; 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 2450 West Main Street in Littleton, Colorado, the Littleton Town Hall is a two and one-half story, rectangular-shaped structure with a fifty-foot frontage located between two late 19th century buildings. The structure was designed by J. J. B. Benedict as a multi-purpose town hall in 1920. The main or north facade is constructed of architectural terra cotta. The building units are machine extruded and are larger than brick or facing tile. Their function is decorative rather than structural. The facade blocks, having more ornate detailing, were hand-molded. The thinner sections may be held in place by adhesion to mortar placed between the terra cotta and the backing, and the thicker sections by group and wire anchors connected to the backing.

The building facade is identifiably of the Italianate order due to use of small-scale ornamentation, shadow-forming molding, cast iron, roof tiles, and an arched window design. The pointed lancet arches originally formed an arcade on the ground floor. Major revisions to the building occurred on several different occasions, the first being in the 1950s. While most of the modifications were on the interior to provide for office space, the two pointed lancet arches at the entrance were enclosed. The arches originally formed an arcade on the ground floor. The west arch framed the entrance to the fire house where the town's only hook and ladder truck was kept. At the second level, ogee type arches form the entablature and are stilted with columns. The two lateral windows are enclosed by balcony grilles and a double-bracketed cornice crowns the facade.

The exterior side and back wall construction is brick masonry resting on a concrete foundation. The flat roof is completed at the facade of the building with an awning of glazed tile.

The original floor plan consisted of five major rooms (fire truck room, hose room, restroom, treasurer's office and council chambers) on the first floor and an auditorium spanning the full area of the building on the second floor. The remodelings of the 1950s and 1960s partitioned all the space on both floors in addition to closing the archways.

ED, JEF 3/80

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1920-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. J. B. Benedict

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Littleton Town Hall is one of Littleton's most significant buildings. The building has been associated with the community as the headquarters for the town government and community gatherings since its construction in 1920 and it is the most significant of three Littleton structures designed by Jules Jacques Benoit Benedict, a major Colorado architect and Littleton resident.

Benedict designed the Town Hall when Littleton's population was 1,600 people. The design satisfied the expressed need for a building with a large assembly hall, offices for town officials and fire fighting equipment, and the desire to have some expression of the town's development during the sixty-year period preceding the construction of the Town Hall.

Upon completion, the building was described as the finest architectural example of a town hall for a small community in the country. Mr. Benedict's work shows the influence of the Renaissance works of Puzin and Palladio and the building's design was inspired by the Palazzo della Ragione in Vicenze, Italy. Although the building was inspired by northern Italian examples, it has characteristic local expression in detail and materials. The state flower, the columbine, was conventionalized into the seven horizontal bands of incised ornament of the second story. The eagle was also introduced in the lunettes over the second story windows.

In 1972 the Town Hall was one of the first buildings designated on the city's new historic preservation ordinance. The Town Hall continued in use until 1977 when the City of Littleton occupied a new office building. A non-profit corporation, the Littleton Center for the Cultural Arts now has a long-term lease on the Town Hall from the City of Littleton for the purpose of restoring the exterior of the building and adapting the interior space for community arts performance center. The residents of the Littleton area, the City of Littleton, the Littleton Center for the Cultural Arts, Inc., and the Littleton Historical Museum have focused on the Town Hall as the best example for blending historic preservation and adaptive use.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Benedict, J. J. B., Personal Notebook, Western History Collection, Norlin Library, University of Colorado.  
 Architectural and Historical Building Survey and Inventory Reports 1 and 2, Littleton Historical Museum, 1972, 1973.  
 Documents and Photographic Collections, Littleton Historical Museum  
 Littleton Independent, newspaper files.

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**  
**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .15

QUADRANGLE NAME Littleton, Colorado

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 498600 4384640  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 8, Lot 9, and west 7" of Lot 8, 6677 sq. ft. or .15 acres with 50' frontage.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert J. McQuarie, Director

ORGANIZATION

Littleton Historical Museum

DATE

February 27, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

6028 South Gallup Street

TELEPHONE

(303) 795-3850

CITY OR TOWN

Littleton

STATE

Colorado 80120

# 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

*Arthur C. Townsend* June 16, 1980

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles D. Skell*

DATE 9-4-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Paula Spomer Reed*

DATE 8/28/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION