

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 24 1981  
DATE ENTERED SEP 21 1981

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 Prowers County Building

AND/OR COMMON

Prowers County Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
301 South Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Lamar

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

3rd x

STATE  
Colorado 81052

CODE  
08

COUNTY  
019 Prowers

CODE  
x

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 Prowers County

STREET & NUMBER  
301 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Lamar

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Colorado 81052

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER  
301 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Lamar

STATE  
Colorado 81052

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE Ongoing

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Colorado Historical Society; 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN  
Denver

STATE  
Colorado 80203

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

The Prowers County Courthouse is a neo-classical revival style building constructed of soft gray Indiana limestone with a granite water table. The building is three stories with a partial basement and flat roof. It is rectangular in plan with three-story projecting end pavilions off of the principal facade. The building is divided horizontally into three sections: the first floor capped with a stringcourse, the second and third floors which are articulated by two story fluted pilasters spaced between the windows, and a modified corinthian entablature crowning the building.

The symmetrically composed principal facade consists of 5 bays and projecting pavilions at either end. A pedimented entrance is located in the center of the facade. The ornamental carved pediment contains an eagle with outspread wings; its head is crowned with a nine petal flower. Calyculus shoots with petals emphasize the corners at the base of the pediment. Supporting the pediment is a decorative carved entablature bearing the inscription "Honor to Citizens who Built a House to Better our Government." The entrance is through a pair of bronze doors each containing eight leaded glass panes. Above the doors is a transom divided into small panes by decorative bronze latticework. On either side of the entrance is a suspended brass lantern.

At the first floor, the center entrance is flanked by a pair of multi-paned casement windows on either side. The division of the second and third stories corresponds to that of the ground level. Second and third story windows each contain 16 panes. Ornamental spandrels form the division between the two floors. The fluted two-story pilasters form the vertical division between the windows. The center bay is emphasized by paired pilasters on either side of the windows. The center is further emphasized by an ornamental panel set in a closed parapet wall set on top of the building. An inscription "Prowers County Building MCMXXVIII" is carved in the tablet. On either side of the inscription are a pair of standing justices in long robes holding a book. Each stands atop a pedestal. A simple cornice forms the top of the wall.

The east and west facades are similar in design to the north facade. Each are seven bays across and contain a center pedimented entrance similar to that of the north facade. The second and third stories are articulated in the same manner as the north facade except that all of the pilasters are single. The 2nd and 3rd story end windows are also slightly different from the larger ones.

The end pavilions consist of windowless walls with vertically oriented central bays. A second recessed area in the center of each bay features two raised panels. The upper panel is a square encompassing a framed depiction of a bison flanked by a pair of corn plants. Fluted pilasters similar to those previously noted, are recessed at the corners of the bay.

### Interior

The interior of the building displays several details exemplifying its simple elegance. Ornamental brass chandeliers are located in each of the vestibules located at the main, east and west entrances. On the opposite wall from the main entrance is a terrazzo staircase with brass railings ascending to the upper floors.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet    Description    Item number    7    Page    2

The main entrance hall and corridor have a brown terrazzo floor made of marble and other stones. The ceiling contains a series of coffered panels with stenciled designs. These represent a recurring depiction similar to their carved counterparts found on the exterior of the structure. Suspended in the center of the main entrance hall within a coffered panel is a larger version of the brass chandeliers found in the vestibules and east and west corridors.

The walls are constructed of stone and coated with a sand finish and painted light tan. Simply carved stone pilasters are spaced throughout the entrance hall and corridor. The capitals of the pilasters are integrated with a Greek key frieze interspersed with raised panels displaying carved depictions of the registered cattle brands in Prowers County at the time the Prowers County Building was built (County Commission 1928: 5).

The second floor corridor features a gray, tan, and brown terrazzo floor. The corridor ceiling consists of three coffered panels. From the center of the panels are suspended three brass chandeliers of similar design to those previously mentioned. The sidewalks and exposed ceiling portions are decorated with a repeating pattern of painted blossoms and denticular designs.

The third floor corridor is similar to that of the second floor. There is no doubt that the crowning achievement of the building is the court room located on this floor.

Upon entering the court room from the center of the corridor, attention is brought to focus on a high vaulted ceiling having extensive geometric patterns with a recurring floral motif on a tan background. In the center of the ceiling is an extensive geometric design encompassing a square superimposed upon a rectangle incorporating floral and geometric motifs. Suspended from the ceiling are six intricate brass chandeliers. At both ends of the ceiling further elaborate designs are present. Below the cornice molding is situated a frieze consisting of alternating squares carved with depictions of cattle brands, similar to those found on the first floor corridor. The north wall contains four large windows. On the west wall, an inset houses the judges bench set off by four pilasters with intricately carved capitals along the west wall and at the corners. Additionally, the room retains the original deep walnut furniture and beautiful cork tiled floor.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1928-29

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert K. Fuller-Architect  
A. E. Danielson & Sons-Contractor

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Prowers County Building is significant as an excellent representation of the style of architecture which in Colorado was considered progressive in its period. It is also significant for its association as the political center of Prowers County and as a symbol of the progress of the Lamar community and Prowers County at large.

The town of Lamar was founded as a station stop on the Santa Fe Railroad route through southeastern Colorado in 1886. The town grew rapidly and was named the county seat of the newly formed Prowers County just three years later. The first county courthouse was constructed in 1890. The building, reflective of Late Victorian architectural taste, was constructed of stone and brick with a square tower and Romanesque Revival detailing.

Following the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, architectural styles underwent a significant change. The end of the Romanesque Revival signaled an end to the last vestiges of the Victorian Period. What resulted were architects designing and building structures incorporating new forms and attributes, but not necessarily in the form of exact imitations. This period in architectural history is referred to as Historical Eclecticism and its influence lasted from the 1890's through the 1930's. The styles which prevailed during this period were Beaux-Arts Classicism, Second Renaissance Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, Georgian and Jacobean Revival. The architectural style used in the construction of the Prowers County Building contains elements attributable to both the Second Renaissance and Neo-Classical Revival styles. (Talmadge 1936: 234-290; Whiffen 1969: 154-158). The detailing of the building has moderne overtones. In its innovative blending of academic and moderne forms, the Prowers County Building is clearly one of the most unique and distinguished county courthouses in the state.

Plans for the construction of the second county courthouse were initiated in 1927, when the old courthouse could no longer serve the needs of Prowers County. The construction of the new county building appears to have had a great impact on the consciousness of the Prowers County community. The building was dedicated on August 7, 1929, with the accompaniment of parades, fireworks, dances, and other activities to celebrate the event. Former Governor Julius G. Gunter delivered the address and mayors from the major towns of the county attended. The building clearly served as a significant symbol of progress to the residents of the county.

Today, the Prowers County Building serves as a magnificent architectural memorial to the residents of Prowers County who built it.



**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

---

Legal Description:

Lots 1-18, Block 37, Original Town of Lamar as obtained from the County Assessors  
July 27, 1981