

PH0066125

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| STATE: Colorado | |
| COUNTY: Boulder | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | JAN 21 1974 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Chautauqua Auditorium

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Chautauqua Park (bounded by Baseline Rd., 12th St., Grant Pl.)

CITY OR TOWN:
Boulder

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
No. 2--Donald G. Brotzman

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| STATE Colorado | CODE 08 | COUNTY: Boulder | CODE 013 |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Boulder

STREET AND NUMBER:
Municipal Building, Broadway and Canyon Blvd.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Boulder | STATE: Colorado | CODE: 08 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
1340 Pearl St.

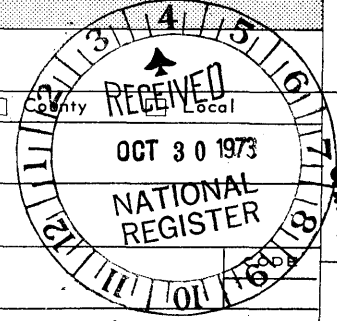
| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Boulder, | STATE: Colorado | CODE: 08 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN:
 STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The auditorium of the Chautauqua at Boulder, Colo., stands today almost as it was built and as it was dedicated on July 4, 1898.

A few changes have been made to convert the building from the general auditorium used throughout the day for programs of music, art and general culture of its earlier years to an auditorium now used mainly at night for summer motion picture programs. Some of the original decoration has been removed, at least four doorways have been modified and a motion picture projection booth has been installed. Seating has been changed from long, wooden benches on a graded dirt and sawdust floor to used, theater-type, generally wooden seats on a concrete floor.

Designed by F. E. Kidder and E. R. Rice, Denver architects, the auditorium was built between May 12 and July 4, 1898, by workmen of the McAllister Lumber Co. of Boulder. That firm undertook the project after the two lowest bidders failed to accept the contract or post the required bond.

The building combines a generally polygonal shape with a stepped side. The maximum dimensions are 170 by 140 feet. The east facade is stepped, ornate and towered. The building then decreases in size toward the stage area, which is toward the west. While technically only one storey in height, the building is entirely open on the inside from the ground to the rafters. These vary from about 15 feet upward supporting the medium gabled roof that is flanked by monitor-type roof areas to the north and south. There is a partial basement under the stage area and some crawl space adjoining. The walls of that area are of natural, rubble coursed stone and also form the only known foundation involved in the structure.

The sides of the building are vertical board and batten. Upward sliding doors on the north, east and south sides formerly provided both access and ventilation for the structure. Most of these now are used on a restricted basis for ventilation or as emergency exits. These doorways feature arcade and entablature styling. The main entrance on the southwest side has been modified with a general boxed pillar construction and overhead, sliding opening. The other most-used entry is at the northeast and has been modified to become a hinged opening but otherwise still matches other doorways. Two others of the many original doors have been modified to be hinged doorways with emergency exit hardware. Thin wall and ceiling baffles have been built inside the southwest and northeast entryways to reduce natural light in the building during the early summer evening hours when programs begin.

Shortly after it was built, the only windows on the west or stage side were replaced with non-moveable wood. It is presumed that this was done to reduce the back-lighting effect those windows must have had during daytime programs. The shapes of the windows still are apparent on the outside of the building. Early in its history, too, a tongue and grooved wood, curved shell was built behind the stage area to help project sound into the auditorium. This construction was hidden for many years by curtains and drapes surrounding the motion picture screen but now shows prominently.

Outside the building no longer has eave-edge flagpoles shown in early pictures. The east facade, however, still has the original found towers, decorated main gable, round vent structures and other decoration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Dedicated July 4, 1898.**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE For more than 75 years, the auditorium of the Chautauqua at Boulder has stood prominently on a height overlooking the city as both an actual, physical landmark and an educational-cultural-entertainment landmark. It can be seen from many parts of the city.

The building is a direct result of interstate cooperation and of the civic interest of 19th Century residents of Boulder. The creation of the Chautauqua climaxed the search by educators from the University of Texas for a summer study center where students and faculty would find more agreeable summer climate along with educational advantages and other attractions. The citizens of Boulder, who earlier had pledged half the needed funds in one night to assure the establishment of the University of Colorado in their city, voted the bonds necessary to buy the Chautauqua site and construct its first buildings, including the auditorium. That structure was built in less than 60 days and dedicated on July 4, 1898. It has served since as a summer center for varied programs. It has housed the change from such earlier attractions as Sousa's band; the orations of Charles Evans Hughes, William Jennings Bryan, Billy Sunday and others, through recitals, theatricals, readings and travel lectures to the modern movies of Walt Disney, John Wayne and many others. Now the auditorium is used primarily for the presentation of family-rated motion pictures nightly during the summer. But it has been used in recent years for choral concerts, an historical fashion show, and the opening program of a revival of the Chautauqua idea of touring cultural programs under the auspices of the Colorado Council on the Arts.

Generations of Boulder residents and visitors have enjoyed the programs in the auditorium; even as the focus of those programs changed with changing times and standards.

The building stands in a 91 acre park owned by the city. It is operated by the non-profit Chautauqua Association (formerly the Texas-Colorado Chautauqua Association), an organization of interested city residents, Texas cottage owner representatives and city officials. Around it are open space--both developed and undeveloped; playgrounds, a dining hall structure built at the same time but more altered from its original appearance; cottages that replaced the tents used for housing visitors in the early years; two lodges, a community house, the former classroom building now used for offices, and varied picnic and natural areas. The whole complex is used by a number of persons: Visitors from Texas and other states in the summer; University of Colorado student and young faculty couples for school-year housing; and residents and visitors all year for recreation and entertainment.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

710
13 / 476130
4427320

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of the Boulder Daily Camera, News, Herald and News-Herald, to be found at the Colorado University Libraries, the State Historical Society of Colorado and the Daily Camera library.
Files and records of the Chautauqua at that office and at the office of the Boulder Daily Camera.

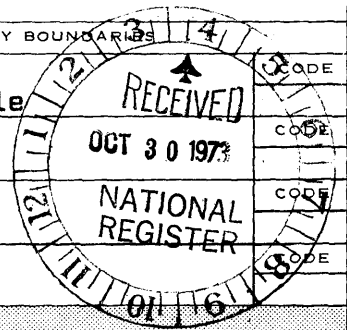
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | 0 . " | 0 . " | | 39N 0 59 . 52 . | W105 16 . 46 . | |
| NE | 0 . " | 0 . " | | | | |
| SE | 0 . " | 0 . " | | | | |
| SW | 0 . " | 0 . " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **minus one**

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|----------------|------|----------------|------|
| Not applicable | | Not applicable | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Laurence T. Paddock, President**

ORGANIZATION: **Boulder Historical Society, Inc.** DATE: **Sept. 5, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **P.O. Box 591**

CITY OR TOWN: **Boulder,** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **88**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Stephen J. Hart*

Title: *State Liaison Officer*

Date: *08 25, 1973*

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Al R. Montrose
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *1/21/74*

ATTEST: *Ronald M. Greenberg*
Keeper of The National Register

Date: *1/16/74*