

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0694088

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RECEIVED JAN 3 1979

DATE ENTERED

FEB 22 1979

**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

Logan County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Logan County Courthouse

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sterling

— VICINITY OF

4

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Colorado

08

Logan

075

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

— DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

— AGRICULTURE

— MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

— PRIVATE

— UNOCCUPIED

— COMMERCIAL

— PARK

— STRUCTURE

— BOTH

— WORK IN PROGRESS

— EDUCATIONAL

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

— ENTERTAINMENT

— RELIGIOUS

— OBJECT

— IN PROCESS

— YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

— SCIENTIFIC

— BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

— INDUSTRIAL

— TRANSPORTATION

— NO

— MILITARY

— OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

✓

Logan County

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 150

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Sterling

— VICINITY OF

Colorado

80751

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Logan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 150

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Sterling

Colorado

80751

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (38/08/0008)

DATE

Ongoing

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Denver

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    |   |   |

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

Located in Sterling, Colorado, the Logan County Courthouse is a single, detached structure rectangular in shape, but with many projections. The structure has two and one-half stories set over a full basement, part of which rises above the ground. The main or north facade has eleven bays with others set inside the projections. The south facade has nine bays, the east facade seven bays, and the west facade seven bays. The building material is primarily beige-white brick set in courses of stretch-er bond accentuated with white, terra cotta quoins. The structure has a low hipped roof.

Entry occurs through doorways in the center of each facade. The entries on the north, east, and west are raised to the level of the first floor, while the entrance through the south facade or rear of the building is on the ground level. The steps, reddish in color, are made of St. Vrain sandstone. The windows are primarily two-sashed and double-hung, some with a transom. In the roof there is a metallic dome in the center, a single chimney set off center, and one dormer above each facade.

The decorative elements are elaborate. The main entrance has a triangular pediment with a centered, ornate medallion and an exaggerated terra cotta keystone. The iron grillwork on the transom has a scallop design which is repeated in metalwork in the interior. Paired, freestanding Corinthian columns flank the double doors. The east, west, and south entrances are less elaborate. The windows on the first floor have radiating voussoirs with keystone and lugsills made of terra cotta. The windows on the second floor have flat arches with keystones. Quoins grace all the corners in the structure--even the chimney and dormers. An entablature separates the basement from the first floor. Another circles the structure above the second floor, but below the galvanized tin cornice and frieze of dentils. The entablature on the north facade is deeply incised with the words "Logan County Courthouse."

The interior has fifty rooms, but is dominated by a great rotunda inside the main entrance. The floors have Colorado Yule marble in the foyers and hexagonal ceramic tile in the central areas and in some offices on the main level. In the main foyer there is an ornate floral design of black hexagonal tile which outlines an elaborate letter "L". In the main area the woodwork and trim are of oak. The stairways, rail-ings and bannisters are of iron which repeats the scallop design of the exterior trim. Two elaborate metal columns, used as newel posts, are located on either side of the main stairway. Decorative crown molding in an egg and dart pattern occurs throughout the central hall, while a pair of Corinthian and Ionic columns grace the hall archways on the north and south. Most rooms have Texas pine for flooring. On the third floor the woodwork and paneling is birch. Etched glass in a floral motif is encased in the court room doors.

Located a short distance away from the Courthouse is a modern, red brick building. It is far enough, however, so as not to compromise the setting of the Courthouse.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1910--present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John J. Huddart

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Logan County Courthouse is significant for its distinctive architecture, the excellence of its craftsmanship, and its central role in politics, law, and government in Logan County, Colorado.

The Courthouse owes its existence to work done early in the twentieth century. About 1908 the county commissioners accepted the design of John J. Huddart, an architect, who had drawn up plans for such a building. Construction began that year on a plot of land known in Sterling as civic square, but the cornerstone was not laid until June 23, 1909. A local newspaper used that auspicious occasion to describe the undertaking as "the beginning of a stately public building, whose substantial utilitarianism and beauty of architecture will publish to a generation not yet upon the stage of action, the wisdom and foresight of the citizens of Logan County...." From that point, construction moved forward at a rapid pace, and on March 5, 1910, the county dedicated the building, erected at a cost of \$100,000. Since that time the first floor of the Courthouse has held the offices of the County Treasurer, County Superintendent, and County Clerk and Assessor. The second floor has housed the offices of the District Judge and the District and County Court Rooms. The basement originally contained the county jail, but the area has since been converted to storage.

Architecturally, the Courthouse is representative of Classical style, not often found in rural Colorado. The workmanship is excellent, and the structure remains much as it was when erected, a landmark in downtown Sterling.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Emma Burke Conklin, History of Logan County (Denver: Welch-Haffner Printing Company, 1928).

Dale Wells, The Logan County Ledger (Sterling: Logan County Historical Society, 1976).

Republican-Advocate (Sterling, Colorado), 1909 and 1910.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.7

QUADRANGLE NAME Sterling South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 3 | 6, 5, 1 | 5, 0, 0 | 4, 4 | 9, 8 | 3, 0, 0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B    |    |    |    |    |     
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C    |    |    |    |    |   

D    |    |    |    |    |   

E    |    |    |    |    |   

F    |    |    |    |    |   

G    |    |    |    |    |   

H    |    |    |    |    |   

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 17, Lots 1-8, Sterling, Colorado.

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

Lydia Vandemoer

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3

TELEPHONE

(303) 522-3372

CITY OR TOWN

Sterling

STATE

Colorado 80751

# 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

*William C. Hammond*

TITLE

*State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

*December 18, 1978*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 2-22-79

ATTEST:

*William H. Brannan* 2-16-79

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

JUN 7 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Logan County Courthouse

COLORADO

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

Keeper

Beth Boland 7/11/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUN 07 1989

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

Logan County Courthouse

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The following information is submitted as an amendment to the original nomination for the Logan County Courthouse which was approved for listing in the National Register on February 22, 1979. This submittal is intended to supplement and update the architectural information given in Section 7 of the original form.

In 1984 the central rotunda areas of the building were restored. In general the work consisted of restoring the original tile floors, stripping and varnishing the oak woodwork, duplicating and replacing the double entrance doors, restoring the brass chandeliers and wall sconces and replacing missing ones with duplicates, painting and highlighting the original plaster trim and walls and ceilings.

On the basement level the original plain concrete floors in the rotunda were tiled with white porcelain hexagonal tiles. Around the perimeter, the black and white pattern of the upper floors was duplicated. The hallways leading off from the rotunda are faced in a rubberized tile in a grey-green shade.

On levels 1 and 2, over 4,000 broken tiles were replaced by new tiles that were hand cut to the size of the original tiles. The woodwork on all levels of the rotunda was stripped and varnished. Shortly after the original construction, nickel plated brass safety rails were added to the oak railings which encircle the rotunda on the 1st and 2nd levels. During the 1984 restoration, they were stripped down to the brass and polished.

On the first level, the plaster detailing is especially notable. Encircling the entrance foyers is a classical cornice with small brackets embellished with acanthas leaves. Below is a band of dentils and a frieze with medallions containing lions heads and spreading leaves. All of the trim throughout is painted white with gold accents. The plaster walls and ceilings are painted a pale grey with mauve accents. The original linen plans for the building are framed and hung on the rounded walls of the rotunda. The original oak jury chairs have been restored and are placed around the rotunda on this level. The oak framed building directories in the south and west foyers are original.

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Continuation SheetSection number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2Logan County Courthouse

On level 2 jury chairs also line the walls of the rotunda. The paired Corinthian columns on this level were brought out of storage and placed back in their original locations. The north doorway was walled over and only a single column was installed to accommodate a coffee bar on the other side of the wall.

The floor on level 3 is the original 4 inch oak flooring which has been restored. The skylight is about 9 1/2 feet above the floor level. The stained glass design, drawn on the original plans, was never installed. During the restoration this piece was added. The work was done by Susan Gold of Elysian Glass in Boulder, Colorado.

The interior signage was patterned after the lettering of the only intact example from the "Gents" sign on the men's restroom. The current signage was designed by Ron Abo, a Denver architect.

The brass chandeliers and wall sconces in the building's public spaces have been restored. Where they were missing, new fixtures matching the original have been installed.

Barbara Sudler  
Barbara Sudler, State Historic Preservation Officer

6-1-89  
Date

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUN 7 1989

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Photo Log - Logan County Courthouse

Logan County Courthouse  
Sterling, Colorado  
Photos: Lydia Vandemoer, February 1989  
Negatives: Lydia Vandemoer

Photo #

1. Level 1 frieze detail of lion head medallions
2. Rotunda looking down to basement level from level 3
3. Art-glass dome from basement level
4. Art-glass detail
5. New tile floor added in basement level with a border matching the upper levels
6. Level 1, central stairway facing south
7. Tile pattern at entrances. All tile original.
8. Level 1 - rotunda
9. Level 1 - rotunda
10. Level 1 frieze detail
11. Level 3 Rotunda railing and wood floor