

PHC500593

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
JUL 6 1977 for Register  
RECEIVED NOV 1 1976 - a determination  
DATE ENTERED JAN 3 1978

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 THE PUEBLO FEDERAL BUILDING  
AND/OR COMMON U. S. Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 421 North Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Pueblo VICINITY OF Third  
STATE Colorado CODE 08 COUNTY Pueblo CODE

3 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The United States Postal Service  
STREET & NUMBER Western Region  
CITY, TOWN San Bruno VICINITY OF California 94099

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pueblo County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER 10th & Main Streets  
CITY, TOWN Pueblo STATE Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Colorado State Inventory of Historic Sites  
DATE Spring, 1976  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Colorado  
CITY, TOWN Denver STATE Colorado

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

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

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

Located at the corner of Fifth and Sixth Streets, the Federal Building, otherwise known as the Post Office Building, was completed and dedicated in the year 1897, at a cost of \$275,000.

The Post Office is characteristic of many other fine government structures constructed in the late 1800's, though it is the only example of this type of architecture in the region. The basic plan of the building is rectangular and is distinctively compatible with the surrounding structures, though the massing of units are visually nonidentical and non row-related. It is a four story stone building, with a rear rectangular wing. The roof is flat with an offset chimney to the left rear, which is identical in shape to the main tower of Louis Sullivan's Grand Opera House which once stood to the left of the Post Office. The facade is quite ornate with its complex projecting frontispiece, intricate wrought iron window guards, radiating voussoirs with a decorative keystone, quoins, and variety of cornices and capitals. Because this building represents a unique mix of many stylized elements, it is impossible to refer to one particular style, though its basic form is revival of Italian Renaissance Palazzo design of Florence and Rome. Outstanding details are: (1) the arched windows on the third floor, eastside (see photo), that are Venetian influence; (2) the east shields topping the giant order pilasters on the east facade at the attic story; and (3) the strap work ornament, above the north entrance, which seems to be a Flemish or Dutch derivative.

Minor alterations have occurred since 1897. In the 1930's, the cresting was removed when the roof was repaired (refer to rendering). Interior alterations took place on the third floor where the two court rooms were located. The east courtroom was never used to any great extent and has been converted into office space. The west courtroom on the other hand has been used through the years as a Federal courtroom and contains the original furnishings. This includes the back bar trimming which was hand carved and represents a lost art. The Federal Building contains 61,301 square feet of floor space, or a total of 44 rooms, not including the Post Office workroom, rest rooms, corridors, or vaults. In 1934, a rear addition was added to the original building and completed in 1935.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1897

BUILDER/ARCHITECT WILLIAM AIKEN

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** The Pueblo Federal Building represents the work of an important American Architect, William Aiken. Aiken contributed much to the improvement of Federal architecture in this country. A graduate of M.I.T., Aiken went to work in the office of H. H. Richardson from 1880 to 1882. By 1895, he was appointed as the supervising architect of the U.S. Treasury, Washington, D.C. Aiken came to office when Federal architecture was the subject of much criticism; thus, his aim was to improve conditions.

Throughout most of its history, Federal architecture has followed Thomas Jefferson's advice; that most of public buildings be patterned after the Roman architecture in order to express visibly the nation's republican principles. There was a lapse in the later 19th century when the supervising architect built in the prevailing electric styles of the Gilded age. The Pueblo Federal Building is representative of this lapse as its basic form is a revival of the Italian Renaissance Palazzo.

Aiken designed the Pueblo Federal Building toward the end of his appointment as supervising architect, which terminated in 1897. In 1897, the Pueblo Federal Building was completed and housed the U. S. Post Office. In addition, the following agencies were also housed in the Federal Building: Internal Revenue, U.S. Land Office, U.S. Marshall, U.S. Pension Bureau, U.S. Weather Bureau, U.S. District Court, and the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

Aiken designed many other fine government buildings besides the Federal Building in Pueblo. He designed government buildings for expositions nationwide: Atlanta (1895); Nashville (1897); and Omaha (1898). Numerous post offices, courthouses, and custom houses were also the work of William Aiken. Among the most noted are: the Post Office and Custom House in New London, Connecticut; the San Francisco Courthouse and Post Office; and the Post Office for Mexico City. In addition, Aiken produced the U.S. Mints in Philadelphia and Denver.

Besides being designed by a nationally significant Federal architect, the Pueblo Federal Building is a primary visual feature in the community and is presently being incorporated as a key element in the downtown revitalization plans.

The Post Office is located on the corner of the prime intersection in downtown Pueblo. Located across the street from it is the First National Bank Building, designed by Schmidt, Garden, and Martin, contemporaries of Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. Diagonally opposite is the Liebhardt Building, a two-story commercial building with rich brick moldings. These three buildings create the focus for the Central Business District and represent an outstanding clustering of historic and architecturally significant structures. They are reference points for users of the downtown; hence, revitalization of Pueblo's Central Business District is to be designed with this cluster of buildings as its core of activity. The visual impact of the Pueblo Federal Building in relation to surrounding buildings and in terms of its own exterior qualities is essential to the vitality of downtown.

(Continued)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Quarterly Bulletin: American Institute of Architects, Vol. 9, 1909, p. 287.
2. American Architect, Vol. 94, December, 1908.
3. Western Architect, Vol. 9-10, called Vol. 13-14, 1909.
4. American Architect and Building News, No. 1107, March 6, 1897.
5. Progressive Architecture, July, 1976, pp. 46-52.
6. X-Ray Pueblo League Club, B.P.W., Pueblo, Colorado, 1968, pp. 40-41.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one (1) acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 3	5, 34, 2, 6, 0	42, 3, 5, 770	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Barbara A. Cole (Ray Bryan--Landmark Preservation Task Force)

ORGANIZATION

Pueblo Regional Planning Commission

DATE

October 4, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

#1 City Hall Place

TELEPHONE

(303) 543-6006

CITY OR TOWN

Pueblo,

STATE

Colorado 81003

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

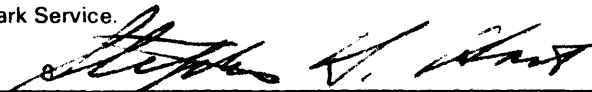
NATIONAL

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




TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

MARCH 31, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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



DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHIOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1.3.78

ATTEST:



KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1.3.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER