

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 29 1980

DATE ENTERED

MAY 15 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

City Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fourth Street and B Street s.

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Rock Springs

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Wyoming

56

Sweetwater

37

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 Rock Springs

STREET & NUMBER

PO Box 1030

CITY, TOWN

Rock Springs

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming 82901

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sweetwater County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Building

CITY, TOWN

Green River

STATE

Wyoming

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wyoming Recreation Commission; Survey of Historic Sites, Markers and Monuments

DATE

1967 (revised 1973)

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

604 East 25th Street

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rock Springs City Hall is an attached irregular structure with an irregular floor plan. The overall dimensions are ninety feet, ten inches by seventy-one feet, ten inches. The two story building has seven bays across the main facade. There is a partial basement below the grade.

The initial foundation plans were deficient because quicksand was encountered; therefore a new scheme had to be implemented. The new fourteen foot foundation consisted of large blocks of red stone placed on cement mortar footings. On top of the red stone is a fourteen inch layer of concrete. The next course is another layer of red stone capped with a grey sandstone layer.

The coursed, rough cut, grey sandstone walls rise above this foundation. The stone was locally quarried at a site two and one half miles southwest of Rock Springs. Exterior wall details include; a belt course at the height of the first floor and corbeling at the cornice. There is an inscription reading "City Hall" and "Fire Station" over the appropriate doors.

The roof line is irregular due to the plan of the building. The main section of the building has a truncated hipped roof with closed eaves. Steep gabled wall dormers are present on each of the facades. The right side wing has a medium gabled roof section with a flat section over the garages and the connecting halls. On both these sections the plain parapet wall rises above the cornice and obscures the lower part of the roof. Two single stack chimneys are present. The first is side right and located on a slope. The other is located offset left and on a rear slope. Special roof trim features include a bellcast mansard roofed cupola in the rear.

The main windows on the first floor are set in a flat opening with a rough cut, grey sandstone lintel for a head. The side surrounds are plain and there are slipsills present. The windows are two sashed, double hung with a transom. Windows on the second floor follow this pattern with some exceptions. These windows are set in a semi-circular opening with an arched, radiating voussoir for a head. The side surrounds are plain and there is a slipsill present. These windows are also two sashed and double hung but instead of a rectangular transom, there is a half round transom. Other decorative windows include: half round windows on the gables and a bull's eye window on the rear facade. The gabled ends of the right wing also have a bull's eye window.

The main door is centrally located on the main facade. The original, double leaf doors have been replaced by more modern doors and the architectural detailing has been lost. The main door is recessed in a semi-circular umbrage. Straight ground level stairs mount the front door.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1894-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Rock Springs Lumber Co./M.D. Kern

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rock Springs City Hall is significant because of its architectural importance to the heritage of Rock Springs and its association with the governmental functions of the town.

While Rock Springs gained its present size and stature as a railroad and mining center, it had its beginnings as an Overland Stage outpost in 1861. A stage station was built near the springs that was to give the town its name. In 1866 Archibald and Duncan Blair established a trading post opposite the station. In 1868 the first coal mine was open under the auspices of the Blair Brothers. 1868 also marked the year that the Union Pacific Railroad was built through Rock Springs and the town quickly became one of the shipping points for stock herds being shipped to market from Rocky Mountain cattle raising country. The Union Pacific Railroad became involved in the mining operations when three of their operators discovered a good coal seam near the Overland Stage Station. Coal production increased and more seams were opened until the Rock Springs mines were the largest west of the Mississippi. The town grew but in a completely disorganized fashion. Like other railroad towns on the frontier with no established law enforcement agency, Rock Springs had its share of brawls, shootings and lynchings. It wasn't until November 19, 1888 that Rock Springs was finally incorporated as a town.

It was at this time that the town began to think about its needs for a structure to house its various governmental functions. Newspaper accounts stress the need for a city hall stating that the expected cost of \$12,000.00 to \$15,000.00 could be raised from annual liquor license sales. Several unsolicited plans were forwarded by council members including a pressed brick building that would have offered a council chamber, reading room, gymnasium, two rooms for the fire department, justice court room, five lock-up rooms and a large hall on the second floor. Controversy flared in the papers over the years until the citizens voted to fund the building of a city hall in 1893.

Newspaper accounts from early 1894 reveal that the land needed for the new city hall was purchased from the Union Pacific Railroad. A committee of five men was chosen to review buildings plans submitted to City Council and report on a later date to the Council. The three architects who submitted plans were: M.D. Kern of Salt Lake City, Utah; Mr. Smith from Ogden, Utah, and an unidentified architect from Zion, Utah. It was after three weeks of debate that Councilman Sorenson moved that "the contract for architecture be awarded to Mr. Kern, of Salt Lake City - his plans subject to changes as the town council may direct." The motion carried.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ADDENDUM

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Rock Springs, Wyoming

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 648340 4605030
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See map sheet

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

James S. Kane

ORGANIZATION

DATE

November 18, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

109 North Washington Street

TELEPHONE

303-482-9382

CITY OR TOWN

Fort Collins

STATE

Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

Jan K. Wilson

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2/15/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W.D. Ray
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/15/80

ATTEST: *William H. Brannan*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 5.13.80

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Martin Didicus Kern was a prominent Salt Lake City architect who practiced widely in the Utah-Wyoming region from the 1880's to the 1890's. In 1889, Mr. Kern entered into partnership with William Carrol. The firm of Carrol and Kern quickly became the most prolific architects in the Salt Lake City area. In one year alone (1890) they designed forty-five major projects (over \$5,000.00). The partnership lasted as long as Salt Lake City's great building boom (1889-1892) and in March of 1892 it was dissolved. Mr. Kern apparently moved from office to office and spent large sums of money on lavish, full page advertisements only to disappear from the architectural scene in 1898. Kern's other works include the J.A. Fritsch block in Salt Lake City (National Register nomination pending.)

After accepting the plans of M.D. Kern the City Council of Rock Springs began to advertise for bids for the construction of the building. The plans and specifications were on file with the town clerk for thirteen days. On April 14, 1894 the town council instructed the mayor to enter into contracts in behalf of the city with the Rock Springs Lumber Company for the construction of the City Hall.

Work was commenced shortly after the April 19 meeting. Mr. J.L. Shedd, building inspector for Rock Springs was given direct supervision of construction. Roy and Company was awarded the sub-contract for the stone work. This company had worked on other Wyoming buildings including the penitentiary in Rawlins and the original Miners' Hospital in Rock Springs. Other sub-contractors included P.J. Moran, a steam pipe fitter from Salt Lake City and the Union Pacific Coal Company which was hired to light the building with electric lights. No major building obstacles, except for the aforementioned foundation problems, presented themselves and by 1895 the governmental functions of the town of Rock Springs were operating out of their new City Hall.

The City Hall in Rock Springs is also significant because it is one of the last remaining examples of Richardsonian Romanesque left in southwestern Wyoming. Exterior alterations have been few and as a result the building is important in illustrating a major segment of architectural history to the citizens of Rock Springs.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Addendum . ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Larson, T.A. History of Wyoming. Lincoln: Univeristy of Nebraska Press, 1965.

Pryde, George. History of the Union Pacific Coal Mines. Omaha: The Colonial Press, c. 1940.

Salt Lake Herald. December 25, 1890.

Salt Lake Tribune. January 1, 1891 and September 19, 1916.

Rock Springs Miner. 2/22/94; 3/1/94; 4/12/95; 4/19/94; 8/9/94; 3/14/95 and 8/29/95.

AHEPA LODGE 314 East 17th Street
Lot 5, Block 359 Original City

JOHN D. CONLEY HOUSE 718 Ivinson
E1/2 of Lots 3 and 4, Block 186 Original Town

ROCK SPRINGS CITY HALL 4th and B
Lots 6 and 7, Block 11 Original Plat

VALLEY SCHOOL - Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Valley School site is a circle which includes all the land within 100 feet of the school.

The boundary gives the building a reasonable margin of protection from encroachment, specifically defines the resource, and excludes two out buildings one of which is recent and the other altered.