

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 24 1977
DATE ENTERED	JUL 14 1977

**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

Uinta County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Uinta County Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Evanston

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wyoming

CODE

56

COUNTY

Uinta

CODE

041

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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Uinta County

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Evanston

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Uinta County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Evanston

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

Wyoming Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Uinta County Courthouse complex, occupying a full city block in Evanston, is characteristic of the traditional courthouse square found in small towns across the country: the courthouse building is located in the center of the block; trees spaced singly, or in clusters, are found within the block; and it contains some sidewalk, a flagpole, a railroad locomotive, and a memorial statue dedicated to the veterans of the Civil War, Spanish American War, and World War I. Recent developments have altered the character of the square considerably, and of the original buildings only the courthouse itself remains standing. The two-story brick jail, built in 1887, and forming an organic part of the courthouse complex, was demolished in May, 1976 to clear the land for construction of a new public safety facility. The new building is a rambling, single-story brick structure which, with its adjacent parking lot, covers approximately one-fourth of the square. A row of stately evergreens to the east of the courthouse, shown as saplings in an 1897 sketch, was cut down in 1976, opening up the site visually and changing the quality of the square. In the south corner of the square stands a new firehouse, a prefabricated metal, garage-type building, 65' by 70' in size. Therefore, although the courthouse building remains, the square has undergone serious alteration.

The Uinta County Courthouse is actually the result of three stages of development. The first is the 1873 jail, a two-story brick structure, 16' 0" by 36' 4", built in the center of the square. It was not intended to be freestanding for any length of time and is a simple structure, devoid of ornamentation. The second part of the courthouse, 54' 0" by 40' 4" in size and built onto the jail in 1874, shows more of a recognition of architectural styles prevailing at the time. The stilted segmental arches, low-pitched roof, and overscaled cornice and brackets are characteristics of the High Victorian Italianate style which was then popular in America. Some eclecticism is evident in the simple massing of the building and in the central double portico at the front.

In 1910 the portico was removed, and a two-story brick addition, 32' 6" by 60' 4", was constructed at the front, or west end, of the courthouse. It changes the scale and character of the courthouse from that of a relatively simple, territorial building to a more pretentious, more national building. The addition is essentially Georgian Revival, characterized by strict bilateral symmetry of the front, a classical, pedimented portico containing Ionic columns and entablature, corbelled brick quoins capped by brief egg-and-dart caps, and a semi-circular fanlight over the front entrance. The roof departs from classical form somewhat in that it is hipped and covered with ceramic tiles.

The exterior fabric of the courthouse is in good condition today, and the building stands virtually unchanged since the completion of the last part in 1910. The sandstone columns, capitals and sills are in excellent condition, although the water table and foundation walls are beginning to spall. The brick and mortar joints are in good condition. The bricks on the earliest two parts have been

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 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Uinta County Courthouse is based not only upon its architecture, but also upon its age and its place in the history of Uinta County, Wyoming. Situated at the extreme southwest corner of the state, Uinta County is named for the Uinta Mountains which lie along the Wyoming-Utah state line and which, in turn, are named for the Uinta Indians. Uinta County today is small in size compared to the amount of land it originally contained, as it once stretched the full length of the western extremity of Wyoming Territory. Today it is 2,049 square miles in size, or about twice the size of the state of Rhode Island. It has an average elevation of 6,748 feet above sea level, and its 1970 population was 7,100.

Uinta County is one of the oldest counties in Wyoming. It was the first new county created by Wyoming laws, established by the First Wyoming Territorial Legislature on December 1, 1869, and organized on April 7, 1870. The first seat of county government was a temporary one named Merrill, located near Fort Bridger and named for an officer at the fort. But in a general election held September 6, 1870 voters selected the town of Evanston, which previously had been a voting precinct, as the county seat. Evanston, named for Union Pacific Surveyor J. A. Evans, was not the first settlement in Uinta County--Fort Bridger was established as early as 1843--but it became the county's most significant settlement. It was founded along the Union Pacific Railroad, and as an early divisional headquarters it was a major stopping place along that transcontinental line.

Historian I. S. Bartlett wrote that on December 13, 1873, Governor John A. Campbell, Wyoming's first Territorial Governor, approved an act of the legislature authorizing the commissioners of Uinta County to erect a jail and courthouse to cost not more than \$25,000. According to the minutes of the Uinta County Commissioners for April 14, 1873, the jail portion of the courthouse was to be built first, and brought to completion not later than October 15, 1873, while the courthouse proper was to be completed not later than October 15, 1874. The contract for construction was awarded to Evanston residents Harvey Booth and William McDonald, the latter being also chairman of the four-man Board of County Commissioners. William Durnford was the mason in charge of all brickwork and Thomas Widdop, also a brick mason, assisted in the construction. A man named McCook held the contract for carpentry work, and James Baguley, a skilled woodworker recently arrived from England, completed the interior work.

In 1887, fourteen years after the completion of the courthouse-jail, a new jail

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Addendum

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 2	5 0, 3 0, 1, 5	4, 5 6, 8 1, 1, 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N/A

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

ORGANIZATION	Mark Junge, Historian and Clayton Fraser, Historical Architect	DATE	
STREET & NUMBER	Wyoming Recreation Commission	TELEPHONE	February 1, 1977
CITY OR TOWN	604 East 25th Street	STATE	(307) 777-7695
	Cheyenne		Wyoming 82002

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

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

Paul H. Hestert

TITLE Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2-14-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Wm. Junge

DATE 7/14/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION, KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

Charles Obermeyer

DATE 6-8-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Uinta County Courthouse
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stained a deep red using a mixture which reportedly contained, among other ingredients, slaughter house blood and stale beer. The wooden windows and doors are in fair to good condition.

Inside, the courthouse has undergone minor changes. The building is organized around a central stair hall, with offices flanking both sides. Ceiling and wall surfaces are pressed metal and plaster, respectively, and remain essentially unchanged in most spaces. The main stairway, doors, windows and their casings, and some of the furnishings still remain.

The future of the courthouse is uncertain. The Uinta County government has outgrown the building and needs more office space, and the courthouse faces possible expansion or even demolition in the not-too-distant future.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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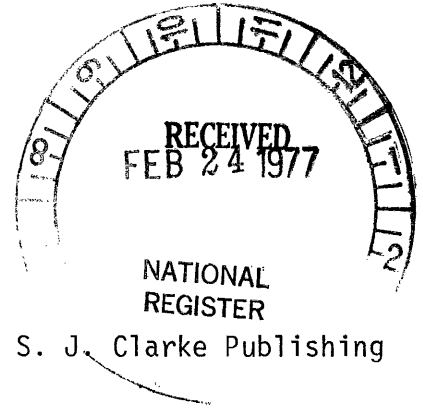
was built by the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company of St. Louis at a cost of \$10,000. The jail portion of the courthouse was then converted into office space and a storage area. A drawing that appeared in the May 8, 1897 issue of the Evanston newspaper, the News-Register, shows the courthouse, 1887 jail, and a building between the two which probably was the jailer's residence. On December 30, 1910 an addition to the front of the courthouse was completed by Evanston contractor W. H. Armstrong at a cost of \$24,000.

As mentioned in the Description portion of this nomination, the courthouse has been altered, and recently the courthouse complex has been seriously altered. The architectural quality of the building and the integrity of the complex have thus been compromised. However, the courthouse deserves enrollment in the National Register for several reasons. First, despite the alterations noted above, the courthouse building itself is still significant architecturally, but only when judged on a local basis. Second, the original portion of the courthouse was built in 1873, making it the oldest courthouse building in the state. Furthermore, relatively few buildings in the state, regardless of function, can surpass it in age. Third, its function is also important. For more than one hundred years the courthouse has been the focal point of county government. These factors are important in determining if the courthouse deserves the recognition afforded by the National Register. One reason why National Register status is crucial to the survival of the building is that it is possible that in the future an attempt may be made to demolish the building. Because it is a public building, it is also possible that it may be affected by federal funds and National Register status provides the basis for review of any project affected by federal funds.

The recent developments at the Uinta County Courthouse complex offer testimony to the consideration sometimes given to the historic value of public buildings. The representative county courthouse, such as the one in Evanston, deserves a better fate. A well-known architect, J. Henry Chambers, made the following statement about the average county courthouse.

Buildings become tangible proof of the continuous evolution of a civilization, with each generation leaving its mark and respecting the best of its predecessors...Buildings and their grouping and assemblage are more than the shelter of our activities; they represent us beyond our life, they interpret us to posterity and they illustrate our past to us...It is in this context that the preservation of examples from the past acquires enormous importance in a culture. There would be no historic cultural artifacts if people had not created them and years later appreciated them. Thus, the conservation of the courthouse would be recognized as a symbol of the continuity of country government and human progress.

ADDENDUM: BIBLIOGRAPHY



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ADDENDUM Continued:
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April 14, 1873, pp. 24.
May 16, 1873, pp. 25.
December 6, 1873.
December 20, 1873.

Book B: July 14, 1887, pp. 179.
July 16, 1887, pp. 178.
July 18, 1887, pp. 178.
September 5, 1887, pp. 190.
September 30, 1877, pp. 193.

