

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 RECEIVED SEP 26 1979  
 DATE ENTERED NOV 14 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

Central High School

AND/OR COMMON

Central Grade School, Central School, the "Stone Schoolhouse"

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

431 East Pitkin Avenue

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pueblo

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Colorado

— VICINITY OF

CODE

08

COUNTY

Pueblo

CODE

101

**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

Pueblo Public School District No. 60

STREET & NUMBER

315 West Eleventh Street

CITY, TOWN

Pueblo

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 81003

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pueblo County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Tenth & Main Streets

CITY, TOWN

Pueblo

STATE

Colorado 81003

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (51/04/0027)

DATE

Ongoing

— FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

# 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 431 E. Pitkin Avenue in Pueblo, the Central High School is a single detached structure rectangular in shape, two stories in height, and built of light-hued, pink rhyolite. The main or northeast facade has five bays, the northwest and southeast facades four bays, and the rear or southwest facade five bays. In each case these bays are divided into two windows that are paired together. The roof is hipped.

The secondary features give the structure the characteristic features of a late Victorian building. The main facade has a projection located in the center; entry occurs here, a wide stone staircase rising up to the first level where the actual entrance occurs through an arch flanked by sandstone pillars. This projection rises nearly a full story above the roofline where it forms a bell tower capped by a mansard roof. This projection on the main facade is also reflected on the rear side by a projection which rises into a small gable. Throughout the structure nearly all the windows are two-sashed and double hung with transom above. This fenestration is elaborately decorated with white sandstone which forms the lintels and sills, and on both stories the lintels are carried around the building to form entablatures. Quoins, columns, and other decorative features are also done in white sandstone. Finally, at the roof line there is an attractive boxed cornice resting on consoles.

The interior retains much of its integrity. A central staircase serves the upper floor from the center projection. And the school has four twenty-eight by thirty-two foot classrooms on each floor.

Ed. JEF 6/79

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Central High School in Pueblo is significant for its role in education in Pueblo, as the site of the so-called Pueblo or Search Plan in teaching, and for its architectural features.

The origins of the Central School run back to 1873 when local citizens organized School District 20. The board erected a one-room schoolhouse on South Union Avenue, but after a few years this structure proved inadequate for the needs of the growing city. About 1882 the District decided to erect what became the Central School. Plans went forward, and the Central School opened the next year accompanied by the enthusiastic accolades of the local press. Originally, the structure served the community as a high school, but a few years later the board built another structure for this purpose and converted the "stone schoolhouse" into a grade school. This change had important ramifications for at the time the Superintendent of Schools was Preston W. Search, and here he developed what became the Pueblo Plan or Search Plan, which later evolved into the so-called Winnetka Plan.

As part of the Pueblo Plan developed by Search, the eight rooms in the Central School were set up as laboratories in which each pupil advanced at his or her own rate. This ungraded program was designed to benefit both gifted students and slow learners. Although Superintendent Search came under sharp criticism from more traditional educators, many others were to adopt some of his ideas, albeit many years in the future.

From an architectural perspective the Central School is one of the finest such structures remaining from that early period in Pueblo's history. The building shows many elements of Victorian design and is a landmark in the city.

Ed. JEF 6/79

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Risley, James H. How It Grew: A History of the Pueblo Public Schools. Denver: University of Denver Press, 1953

Bannister, Fletcher. A History of Architecture. New York: Charles Scribner & Sons, 1896

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Northeast Pueblo

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1/24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	3	5	3	3	2	3	0	4	2	3	3	7	5	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lots 28 to 32 in Block 163 South, Pueblo, 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

(1) Gary Trujillo (2) Betty Overton

ORGANIZATION

DATE

May 1, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

(1) 211 Van Buren (542-0502) (2) 2621 Camellia

(303) 561-3576

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

(1) Pueblo, Colorado 81004 (2) Pueblo, Colorado 81005

# 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

*Arthur C. Townsend*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

*Sept. 17, 1979*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Arthur C. O'Shull*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*11-14-79*

ATTEST:

*William H. Branham*  
CLERK OF REGISTRATION

DATE

*11-7-79*