

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 24 1981
JUL 23 1981
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Greeley High School (1895) and Grade School (1902-1903)

AND/OR COMMON

Old Greeley High School; Old Central School; Central Platoon School

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

~~8th St and 10th Ave~~ (1015 8th St)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greeley

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Weld

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Greeley

STREET & NUMBER

Civic Center Complex, 919 7th St

CITY, TOWN

Greeley

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Civic Center Complex, 919 7th St

CITY, TOWN

Greeley

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

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 DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The east wing of Greeley High School was built in 1895 in a Georgian Revival style. The architect, a graduate of the State Agricultural College in Fort Collins, was Harlan Thomas of Denver. The "romanesque" feeling is carried out in the voluminous cubic shape of the building, in the use and repetition of the rounded arch throughout, and in the use of rusticated native red sandstone combined with brick, and in the unusual one-story apsidal projection in the center of the north facade. This semi-circular extension to the building housed the Greeley Public Library until a new library was built in 1907. The southern facade is decidedly the most interesting. Five interconnecting stone arches form a graceful rhythmic pattern and "frame" the windows between the first and second floors, giving the facade an added elegance plus the illusion of height. Five horizontal stone slabs divide each arch between floors. The southern facade has an interesting cornice, with a swag and shield motif in the frieze. The building has a low-pitched hipped roof. An article that appeared in THE GREELEY TRIBUNE, January 16, 1896, describes the exterior of the building as such: "The foundation is of stone, red sandstone being used above the ground; the building is of pressed brick set in red mortar with red sandstone trimmings, occupies a space of about 100 feet square including projecting entrances and library, has two stories with basement and is 50 feet high. The doors and interior woodwork are oil finished, and the metal work of the doors is of brass. Cut in the stonework on the front between the windows of the first and second stories are the words: "Liberty; Literature; Science; Art; and Justice," and on the cornice the names of men prominent in science and literature (Franklin and Longfellow). The building presents a neat and substantial appearance and except the lettering mentioned, little money has been expended in needless ornamentation."

The remainder of the article is devoted to a lengthy discussion of the interior arrangement, dimensions, and convenience of the building. Briefly summarized, the article describes the main floor corridor as 18' wide with two classrooms on either side, each about 30' square with 14' between the floor and ceilings, and capable of seating fifty students. The library is described as a "pretty semi-circular apartment". First floor classrooms were designed to accommodate the lower grades, and the second floor (consisting of a large 41' x 68' room with southern orientation) was designed for use by the high school. This room had seats for 150 pupils, and was designed to be a multi-purpose room, capable of being used as a meeting hall or as an auditorium with a stage. Large wooden rolling curtains allowed small adjoining rooms to be opened onto this large main hall. Two classrooms--one a laboratory with a "gas closet" and the other a recitation and dictation room--occupied the north half of the second floor. Separate cloak "corridors" for boys and girls were designed to minimize disorder and confusion of students entering and leaving the building, drinking fountains were installed in the corridors, all classrooms had slate blackboards, and toilet rooms and a gymnasium were located in the basement. The article concludes with the following information: "For heating purposes hot water is used and also warm air, and ample provision has been made for ventilation by the most approved system. The building is also wired throughout for electric lights according to rules laid down by the board of underwriters. Whatever may be said of the exterior, there seems to be little to be desired in the interior arrangements sanitary or otherwise to the comfort of teacher and pupil."

With the exception of the southern facade, the high school is quite plain and void of any excessive architectural ornamentation. The planar effect is punctuated by the symmetrical placement of windows throughout, and the motif of the arch is subtly rendered in the brickwork that appears over many of the windows, and heavy rounded arches, outlined in native sandstone define the entrances to the stairwell projections at the east and west ends of the building.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



81

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

The stringent pecuniary and conservative "no frills" guidelines stressed by THE GREELEY TRIBUNE regarding the design of the 1895 building, seem more rigorously applied to the 1902-03 grade school addition. In design, the grade building is similar, yet subordinate to, the high school. The increased number of children in the lower grades resulted in extreme over-crowded conditions in the new high school, so this building was designed specifically for the lower grades. Very little ornamentation appears in the overall design, save for the cornice and pediment on the west entrance which was designed to match the east entrance of the high school building.

The 1895 high school building and the 1902 grade school building have received only minor alterations throughout the years. Original photos of the southern facade of the high school reveal a dormer-type of structure which appeared in the center of the building over the word "High" which is centered in the frieze area above the stone arches. This dormer-like structure was removed in later years and never replaced. The west entrance of the high school was remodeled in 1902 and used as the connecting member when the grade school was added to the building. The sandstone and brick masonry of the 1902 west basement stairway entrance is crumbling, and vandals have removed some of the stone and bricks. The interiors of both buildings have been slightly modified; a fountain and snack bar were added on the first floor corridor of the 1895 structure when it was used as a City of Greeley Youth Center during the 1950's. Likewise, the east and west stairwells in this section have been sealed off in compliance with fire regulations. Several classrooms in the 1902 grade building have been partitioned into smaller rooms, offices, and storage areas, and some ceilings in this section have been lowered via acoustical tiles. Most of the additions and changes in the interior of both buildings are reversible and the original floor plan of both schools is completely discernable.

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 1895-96, 1902-03 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Harlan Thomas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Greeley High School is significant because it is associated with the strong emphasis and value that Greeleyites placed on learning and higher education (education was one of the five founding principles on which Nathan Meeker based the Union Colony), because the need for a new school is related to patterns of growth in the community, and because the final design of the building itself was strongly influenced by the economic factors of the time.

In a letter to the Greeley Tribune, dated January 25, 1894, the school board cited the overcrowded conditions that existed in the Meeker Building and expressed concerns about the safety of the antiquated heating and ventilation systems in this building. The board proposed the construction of a "new building, which for the present can consist of a central hall and a west wing, two stories high and of sufficient size to meet the immediate needs of 1894 and 1895, and after this part is completed, as it should be by 1894, the arrangements can be made, whenever necessary to remove the old building, and build the east wing which would come about where the present building (Meeker School) is situated." Bonds for the estimated amount of \$25,000 would need to be issued to finance the project.

The plan for the proposed school building was criticized by the Tribune as too extravagant in an editorial published in the February 1, 1894 edition. The Tribune also felt that Greeley's first school, the Meeker School, shouldn't be razed (although it eventually was in 1922) and suggested that "the board proceed on a plan for a central building with two wings. The central building might be erected to join on the present building on the east, leaving the west wing for some indefinite time in the future," and that, "the Tribune will advocate bonds to moderate amount for a building something on the plan and dimensions named above, but will not advocate any frills whatever in public expenditure at this time." This "no frills" conservative attitude, coupled with the conditions and restrictions placed on the style and kind of buildings to be built as enumerated by the Tribune were adhered to in the final design of the buildings.

The high school building was in continuous use until 1912, when a new high school was built in another area of town. However, both buildings continued to be used intermittently for grade school or junior high school students until 1948 when the city of Greeley acquire the property from School District Six. It has been used periodically as a youth, recreation and senior citizens center, until it was closed in 1978.

Architecturally, the Greeley High School is significant as the oldest high school building remaining in Greeley and the only existing public building of Georgian Revival architecture. In its present setting, the building is the only large historic "public" edifice that remains in an area now punctuated primarily by contemporary buildings and parking lots.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Greeley Tribune, 1894, 1895, 1896

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 2

QUADRANGLE NAME Greeley Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minutes

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 5,2,5,8,6,0 4,4,7,4,7,9,0

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

West half of block 46

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

Peggy A. Ford

ORGANIZATION

City of Greeley, Greeley Municipal Museum

STREET & NUMBER

Civic Center Complex, 919 7th St

CITY OR TOWN

Greeley

November 1, 1980

DATE

(303) 353-6123, Ext. 391

TELEPHONE

STATE

Colorado 80631

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

Luther C. Amundson

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE June 12, 1981

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the
National Register

DATE 7-23-81

ATTEST: *Luther C. Amundson*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

Cranford Hall, similarly built with a central section flanked by two wings, and the first building of the State Normal School (now the University of Northern Colorado), was razed in 1972. It is interesting to note that when the high school received its west wing addition of 1902, the west wing was also being added to Cranford Hall.

Today, the presence of these buildings, located adjacent to Lincoln Park (the city's original and oldest public park) on the east, and several homes of the same vintage and one of the city's oldest churches on the south, provide a visual definition with the past--a past that seems in this particular area to be rapidly eroding in the face of urban development and change. Again, the significance of Greeley High School and the Grade School addition of 1902 is both architectural and historical--it reflected the citizens response to, and responsibility to the problem of how to accommodate the legitimate educational needs of a growing community in economically difficult times. The final solutions were primarily utilitarian in nature, and without excessive ornamentation so as not to appear in competition with the architecture of Cranford Hall at the State Normal School.