

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0687154

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RECEIVED
OCT 24 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 18 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~~ Vail Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

"The Vail"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

217 South Grand Ave

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pueblo

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Pueblo

CODE

101

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 Vail Hotel of Pueblo, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

217 South Grand

CITY, TOWN

Pueblo

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pueblo County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

10th and Santa Fe

CITY, TOWN

Pueblo

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (51/04/0025)

DATE

Ongoing

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society; 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in downtown Pueblo, the Vail Hotel is a single detached structure built roughly in the shape of an "H". The structure has five stories set over a full basement, each level having 9090 square feet. The main or east facade has nine bays facing the street with another two bays set inside the projections. The north and south facades have seven bays each, while the rear or west facade has five bays. The foundation and parts of the facades are of concrete or pre-cast concrete slabs, but most of the structure is of white brick laid in courses of stretcher bond. The roof is flat.

Entry to the building occurs through a porch located in the center of the main facade. The opening is semi-circular in shape with radiating voussoirs creating an arch. The side trim is of plain wood, but flush, vertical panels of plain glass flank both sides of the door, and the transom panel has "Hotel Vail" spelled out in stained glass. The door itself is double-leafed with recessed, beveled panels. The windows on the first story are single sashed and do not open. All have lugsills and transoms. The two windows on the porch have a simple wooden side trim, but the six on the projections along the main facade are set apart by columns. The transoms of all eight windows are of "marbled" stained glass with blue and pink borders surrounding the letter "V". The windows on the second, third, fourth, and fifth stories are two-sashed and double hung with a decorative element above the center. The windows on the fourth story, however, have radiating voussoirs. The structure also has two chimneys located within the roof line.

The decorative elements are elaborate and intricate. On the main facade the brick has been laid in both recessed and projecting courses. Eight recessed panels made of concrete extend from the second to fourth stories. Two elaborate entablatures surround the entire structure, one above the first story and the other above the fourth. The roof cornice is boxed with frieze and brackets, while above the cornice is a parapet with balustrades, the entire unit being broken in the center by a decorated pediment with a large "V".

The interior still reflects much of the Vail's original elegance. The main floor still has the original white, hexagonal tiles alternating with others of brown, green, and black. The walls have the original concrete and metal lathe with plaster finish. The designers used no wood in the structure except for door and window trim. The original, hand-operated elevator is still in place. A six-foot square skylight with the "V" insignia sits above the clerk's desk, but the area is now lighted artificially instead of through the opening that runs up five stories to a skylight in the roof. The clerk's counter, window sills, and main stairs are marble. But the most distinctive features of the interior are the great marble columns decorated at the top with hand-carved wooden scrolls. The rooms upstairs no longer have their original elegance, but each has an outside window and a private toilet; fifty-four rooms have private baths. Each floor has several suites arranged so that the private baths could be made exclusive to either room; this was a feature so unique in 1911 that one report claimed that it was "not to be duplicated west of New York City except by the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago."

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J.M. Giles, Robert S. Willison and Montana S. Fallis

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Vail Hotel is significant for its association with John E. Vail, an important businessman in southern Colorado, and Montana S. Fallis, a noted architect in Denver. The structure is also notable for its association with the development of the hotel industry and for its distinctive architectural features.

John E. Vail was a successful businessman in Pueblo. He was particularly noteworthy as the founder of the Star-Journal Publishing Company, which published the city's most important newspapers, forerunners of the current Star-Journal and Chieftain. Yet he also earned a measure of distinction in the hotel industry. By the early twentieth century Pueblo wanted a building that could provide first class accommodations, and Vail took the lead in bringing this desire to fruition. He helped organize and served as Chairman of the Board of the Vail Hotel Company, which provided much of the capital through its 300 local stockholders. To design the facility, the enterprise drew upon the talents of three architects, J.M. Giles of Pueblo, and Robert S. Willison and Montana S. Fallis of Denver. Fallis was then noted as the designer of the Ideal Cement Building, Denver's first reinforced concrete structure, a building now listed in the National Register. Once Vail and his associates accepted the plan, construction went forward in 1910. When dedicated on September 11, 1911, some considered the building not only the most modern, but also the only fireproof hotel west of Chicago. Because of its elegance and proximity to the railroad station, "the Vail" quickly attracted a clientele that included the rich, powerful, and influential. For years the building fulfilled the hopes of its founders and became a landmark in downtown Pueblo.

Architecturally, the Vail Hotel is a fine example of a building set in the style of the Second Renaissance Revival. The graceful lines with elaborate detailing, the feeling of horizontality created by the entablatures and balustrade, the use of a balustrade, and the absence of cast iron for ornamentation and detailing are characteristic features of the style manifested in this building. Yet the Vail came relatively late in the style's development for the Second Renaissance Revival reached its zenith in the years from 1890 to 1915.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Vail Hotel Wears Air of Old-Time Elegance", Pueblo Star Journal and Sunday Chieftain, April 3, 1977.
 The Pueblo Star-Journal, Sept. 20, 1911; January 7, 1912; October 5, 1912; October 6, 1912; March 3, 1910.
 "Pueblo's New Hotel, Most Magnificent in the West", Pueblo Star-Journal, Sept. 17, 1911. Pueblo City Directory, 1911.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.44 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Northwest Pueblo

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 5,3,4,0,1,5 4,2,3,5,2,4,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 5,3,3,0,9,0

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All Block 45, except N. 70.45 feet and S. 55 feet, Block 45, 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

Kerry M. Peterson

ORGANIZATION

DATE

May 16, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

8341 Hwy. 78

TELEPHONE

(303) 485-3247

CITY OR TOWN

Beulah

STATE

Colorado 81023

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



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

October 13, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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



DATE

12-18-78

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

William H. Bramham 12-12-78