

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAY 16 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cheyenne County Jail
other names/site number Eastern Colorado Historical Society Museum

2. Location

street & number 85 West 2nd Street n/a not for publication
city, town Cheyenne Wells n/a vicinity
state Colorado code CO county Cheyenne code 017 zip code 80810

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Barbara D. Allen 5-13-88
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Alton Byers 6-16-88
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/Correctional Facility

Domestic/Institutional Housing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Other: Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Stucco

roof Metal: Tin

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Built in 1894, the Romanesque style Cheyenne County Jail is a flat roof building with an irregular plan and three levels - one, one and a half and two stories. Constructed of local brick made by Citizens Brick Co., the building was stuccoed in 1905 to prevent further deterioration of the soft brick. The stucco has been coursed to resemble large stone blocks which is in keeping with the fortress-like design of the building.

The front of the jail consists of three bays; a long, one story bay runs parallel to the street on the south side, a middle bay with a recessed, round arched entrance and a two story octagonal tower bay on the north side. Set back from the tower is a one story, women's jail addition on the north side which is also stuccoed and with a flat roof. Behind the tower and set back from the south front bay is the one and one-half story portion of the building. At the rear of the south bay there is a shed roof addition that was constructed ca. 1910-1920.

For the most part, the windows are tall, narrow, segmental arched openings with one-over-one double hung wood sash which have rock faced stone sills. There are bars on the windows in the jail sections. The second story tower windows are much narrower than those below. There is an entry in the middle of the first floor of the tower with a wooden door, the original screen door and a transom. Above the door is a carved stone panel with the words, "Cheyenne County Jail."

When the building was originally constructed, it exhibited finely detailed brickwork such as a corbelled brick cornice, radiating brick arches over the windows and entryways, beltcourses, and quatrefoils located below the tower cornice. Romanesque influence is shown in the large, arched entryway and the large octagonal tower.

The stuccoing of the exterior and the addition of the women's cell obscured many of the original details of the building. However, the basic form and the feeling and symbolism of the building's style remain unchanged. Some of the details such as the arched entry and tower are still evident and the historic integrity and feeling of historic association of the jail have not been significantly altered.

The interior of the jail was designed to house prisoners on the north side and the sheriff's family on the south side. The north side consists of an office and stairway in the octagonal tower. The upstairs room of the tower has a window on the west

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cheyenne County Jail

interior side where the jailer can view prisoners in the large cell room below. The floors in the tower are wood, with the upstairs tower room having a wooden bannister. The large cell room on the west has a cement floor and plastered walls. The high windows of the cell room have bars on the outside, and the windows open to the inside. The original steel cell was built by the F. J. Meyers Manufacturing Company of Hamilton, Ohio and installed by them in the building, where it is still found. Each of the two rooms within the steel cell has four beds with a tiny walkway between them. Bathroom facilities for prisoners, consisting of stool, shower and wash basin, were installed just outside the steel cell in the corridor of the steel unit. The small wash basin still remains in this corridor.

The sheriff's living quarters are separated from the jail by a small entryway. The three original rooms of the sheriff's quarters consisted of living room, bedroom and kitchen. These rooms had hardwood floors and 10' high ceilings. The ceiling in the bedroom has been lowered about a foot. Walls are plastered throughout the building. The original woodwork and hardware on the doors is uniform throughout, with the doors all having black china knobs. The west door of the original kitchen has a transom, as does the door to the sheriff's office in the tower.

On the north side of the original kitchen is a bathroom on the west and a pantry on the east. According to the Cheyenne County Commissioners Proceedings, the water closet was added in 1899; however, the jail did have a bathtub as early as January 1895. The west wall of the bathroom was an original outside wall and has a high window in it. The west wall of the pantry has a high six-paned window which overlooks the bathroom.

A small cellar is located directly underneath the bathroom and is walled with unglazed brick, indicating that it probably was constructed at the same time as the building or shortly thereafter.

The lean-to attached to the west side of the building appears to have been added in two different stages, probably sometime between 1910 and 1920. The southwest side was probably originally a back porch that was later converted to a kitchen. It has a built-in sink and small corner cabinet. The northwest side of the lean-to appears to have been added sometime after the back porch. It encloses the door to the cellar.

A small one story women's cell addition was built on the north side of the building in April 1937. Like the original large cell, this one has a cement floor and plastered walls. It has two high barred windows. The lean-to and addition do not significantly alter the design of the original building.

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Cheyenne County Jail

Located 32 feet west of the original jail building is a 28' x 40' cement block building with hip roof, originally built in April 1918 for the purpose of a combined garage and coal house for the jail. It is associated with the jail but does not conform to the architectural style of the Roeschlaub building and is a non-contributing building.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1894-1938

Significant Dates

1894
1905
1937

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Roeschlaub, Robert S. Architect
Frisk, W. J. Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Cheyenne County Jail meets Criteria A and C. It is significant for its representation of the important institutions in Cheyenne County's history as it developed into a town; because it is a distinctive architectural design for Cheyenne Wells, and because it is the only known extant jail designed by architect Robert S. Roeschlaub, one of the state's most prominent architects.

The Cheyenne County Jail meets criterion A for its significance in the development of Cheyenne Wells. Constructed only five years after the county of Cheyenne was formed and four years after the incorporation of the town of Cheyenne Wells, the jail represents the establishment of civic monuments and the attempt to develop an urban identity. The development of Cheyenne Wells was typical of most towns on the Colorado Plains. After the local government was firmly established, the next step was to establish social facilities, start schools, maintain law and order, and erect public buildings. The development of schools, law, and public buildings was a source of public pride and created a sense of permanence for settlers of the plains. The Cheyenne County Jail well represents the development of the urban frontier on the plains of Colorado. At the present time there are no jailhouses in the state of Colorado listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Also, the jail is one of the oldest buildings in Cheyenne Wells.

The Cheyenne County Jail meets Criterion C for its distinctive fortress-like design and because it represents the breadth of the work done by master architect Robert S. Roeschlaub. The jail is architecturally unique in the Cheyenne County area. The miniaturization of the fortress design portrays well the idea of imprisonment and creates a symbol which identifies the function of the building. In addition, the small scale of the building enabled the young and developing community to erect a civic monument to represent its commitment to law and order as well as its hope for permanence. Elements of the building which create the image of a castle or fortress are the large octagonal tower; heavy angled walls; corbelled brick cornice; tall, narrow windows and large arched entryway. The jailhouse presently houses a museum which is maintained by the Eastern Colorado Historical Society.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cheyenne County, Colorado Commissioners Proceedings, 1889-1961.

Cheyenne County History (Eastern Colorado Historical Society, 1979.)

Cheyenne County News

Cheyenne Republican.

Cheyenne Wells Record.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository:

Eastern Colorado Historical Society,

c/o Karlene McKean, 43455 Road CC., Cheyenne Wells CO 80810

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one

UTM References

A 13 730000 429995
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Cheyenne County Jail is located on Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Block 32, First Addition, Cheyenne Wells, Colorado.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property constitutes the entire three lots historically associated with the Cheyenne County Jail

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karlene McKean (with assistance from Jill Warnick, Colorado Historical Society)
organization Eastern Colorado Historical Society date January 12, 1988
street & number 43435 Road CC telephone (303) 767-5907
city or town Cheyenne Wells state CO zip code 80810

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2Cheyenne County Jail

The Cheyenne County Jail is the only remaining jailhouse of two designed by Robert S. Roeschlaub. Roeschlaub was Colorado's first major architect and the leading institutional architect of 19th century Denver. He spearheaded the creation of the Colorado chapter of the A.I.A. for its first twenty years, and in 1900 he was the first Colorado architect to receive the honor of Fellowship from the national A.I.A. Of the many schools and civic buildings designed by Robert S. Roeschlaub, two were jailhouses. The other jailhouse, now demolished, Roeschlaub designed was for neighboring Lincoln County. The Cheyenne County Jail represents the breadth and adaptability of Roeschlaub's work.¹

Even though it functioned as a jail until 1961 the period of significance is concluded in 1938 since its use after that year is not of exceptional significance.

After the creation of Cheyenne County was approved by the Colorado Legislature on March 25, 1899, one of the first orders of business was to build a jail. This first jail building was 12' x 24', 8 feet high, with an iron roof. It was made of 2' x 8' lumber spiked together with 40d. spikes every three inches.

On October 8, 1891, a grand jury reported that this jail was an unfit and dangerous place to keep prisoners and recommended the building of a new jail. Because of this recommendation and due to the fact that the county was paying large sums of money for the keeping of prisoners at a great distance from the county seat, the County Commissioners in their February 3, 1893, meeting adopted a resolution calling for the building of a three cell steel jail room, to be enclosed by a suitable brick building, with three rooms attached for the use of the jailer.

At the May 29, 1893, Commissioners meeting, the Chairman introduced a plan for the new jail and correspondence relative to the jail and the ground. Then at their September 2, 1893, meeting they decided to submit the jail proposition to the voters. The voters approved it in the November 1893 election.

The Commissioners Proceedings show that on October 3, 1893, Cheyenne County paid \$552 to Lincoln County for board of prisoners. At this time Lincoln County had a new jail which had been designed by Robert S. Roeschlaub and built in 1891. Perhaps it was this relationship with Lincoln County that led the Commissioners to choose Roeschlaub for their architect.

On January 2, 1894, the Commissioners agreed to accept the contract with Roeschlaub for building the jail. On January 8, 1894, they agreed to purchase Block 32 of First Addition, Cheyenne Wells, from Louis N. McLane to be used as a jail site. All of First

¹Telephone conversation with Francine Haber, November 1987, by Jill Warnick, Colorado State Historical Society.

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Addition was originally Louis N. McLane's homestead claim. McLane was president of the Cheyenne Wells Town and Investment Company, which laid out the original town of Cheyenne Wells in the spring of 1887.

On February 24, 1894, the Commissioners opened bids for the cell work for the new county jail and accepted the bid of the Fred J. Meyer Manufacturing Company for construction of the cell work for \$2,215 in cash or \$2,540 in county warrants. By their May 7, 1894, meeting they had entered into a contract with Meyer "for the delivery and erection in the said Building, two Steel Jail Cells and Steel Corridor, furnished complete, ready for occupancy, including all the attachments therewith ...". This cell is still standing in the building and bears the name "Meyers Patent Jail, F.J. Meyers Mfg. Co."

On April 3, 1894, the Commissioners approved a contract between the Board and W. J. Frisk of Denver for the construction of the jail for \$2,600 cash or \$3,059 in county warrants. The Commissioners also entered into a contract with the Citizen Brick Company of Cheyenne Wells to furnish 100,000 bricks for the jail at \$17.56 per thousand.

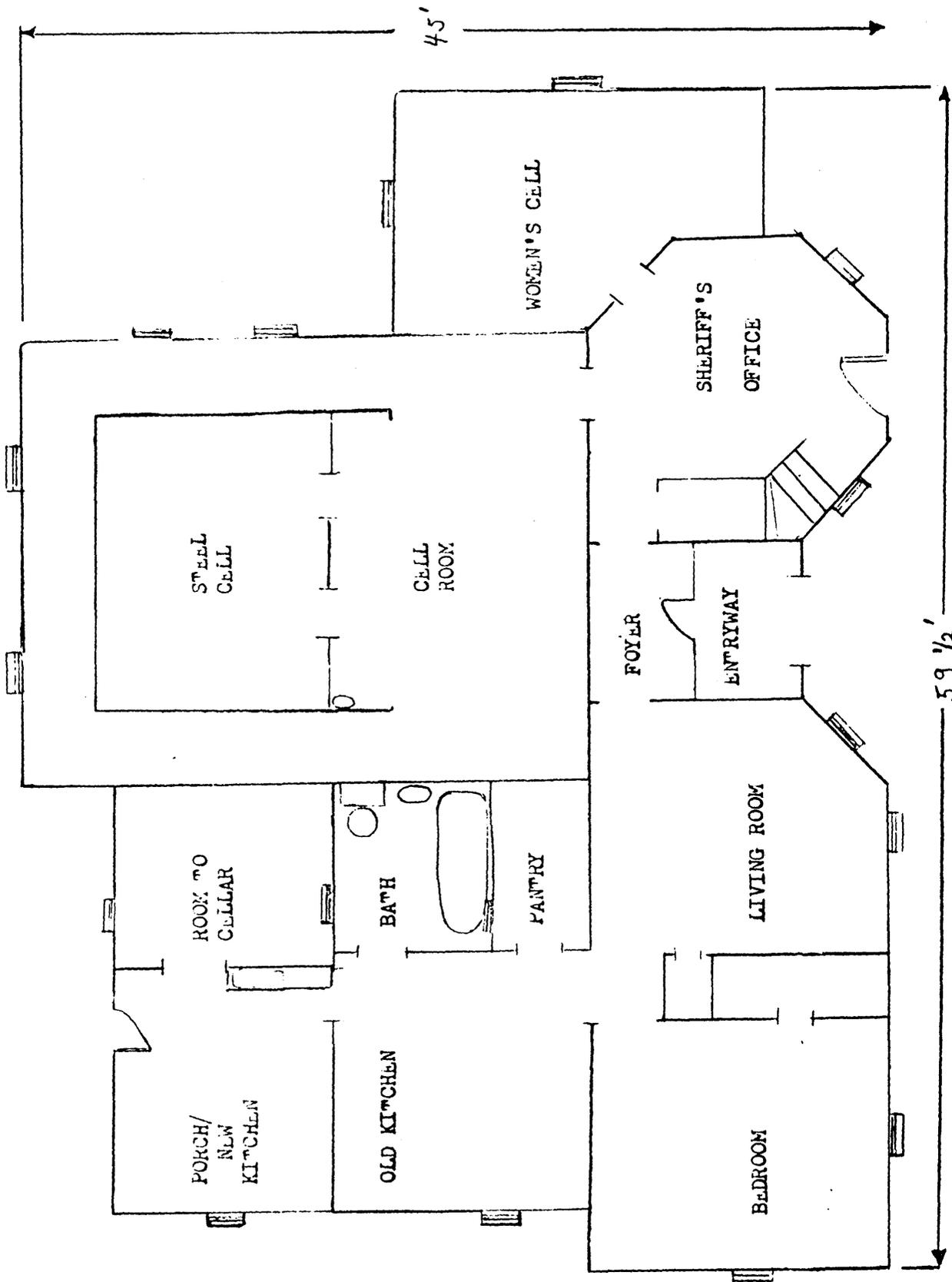
After the jail building was completed, the work was accepted by the County Commissioners on September 22, 1894. On January 8, 1895, a warrant was issued from the Ordinary Revenue Fund for \$124.73 to pay Roeschlaub for his services an architect.

This jail building continued to function as Cheyenne County's jail for 67 years. Major structural changes made to the building during this period of time include a lean-to on the west, which was probably added during the late Teens or early Twenties, and a women's cell which was constructed in April 1937.

In 1961 the Business and Professional Women of Cheyenne Wells decided to establish an historical society and museum. They followed plans and instructions from the Colorado Historical Society and organized the Eastern Colorado Historical Society. Their Certificate of Incorporation was filed with the Secretary of the State of Colorado on July 18, 1962. The July 11, 1963, edition of Cheyenne Wells Record shows that the group had started making plans to use the old jail for a museum, and the Society signed a lease with the county for the building on December 30, 1963.

The women in the Eastern Colorado Historical Society gradually lost interest in the museum and failed to keep up their corporation. The corporation was suspended on December 29, 1972, and dissolved on January 1, 1978. In the meantime, another group formed in 1976 to write a Cheyenne County history book as a bicentennial project. They wanted an organizational name, so in cooperation with the remaining officers of the Eastern Colorado Historical Society, they took over the name of the group and the museum. This group maintains the museum's collections at the present time and has plans to repair the building and make it a source of community pride as the county prepares for its centennial celebration in 1989.

CHEYENNE COUNTY JAIL FLOOR PLAN



SKETCH MAP OF CHEYENNE COUNTY JAIL

