

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Colorado	
COUNTY: Las Animas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 28 1973	

NAME

COMMON: **CORAZON de TRINIDAD**

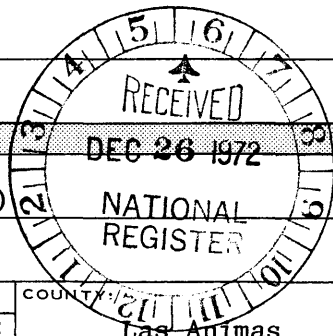
AND/OR HISTORIC: **Original Townsite**

LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **not applicable (see location map)**

CITY OR TOWN: **TRINIDAD**

STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08** COUNTY: **Las Animas** CODE: **071**



CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress n.a.
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	See appendix	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	"Existing Land Use Map"	

OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **not applicable**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **County Clerk & Recorder**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Las Animas County Court House**

CITY OR TOWN: **TRINIDAD** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **The Historic Building of Central Trinidad**

DATE OF SURVEY: **August 1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Colorado State Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER: **200 Fourteenth Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **DENVER** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

STATE: **Colorado**

COUNTY: **Las Animas**

ENTRY NUMBER: **FEB 28 1973**

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

see the attached copy of
THE HISTORIC BUILDING OF CENTRAL TRINIDAD
edited by Willard C. Loudon, 1970.

see the attached aerial photographs

see the attached map in the appendix
CONDITION OF EXISTING STRUCTURES



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(s) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

see attached copy of
THE HISTORIC BUILDING OF CENTRAL TRINIDAD
 Editor's Note, Willard C. Loudon
 Introduction, Dr. Morris F. Taylor
 Conclusion, Langdon F. Morris, Jr., A.I.A.



JUL 1 1973

45 NO 171

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

BESHOAR, Michael. ALL ABOUT TRINIDAD AND LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, COLORADO. Denver: 1882.
 BESHOAR, Barren B. OUT OF THE DEPTHS. Denver: 1942.
 McGOVERN, George S. & GUTTRIDGE, Leonard F. THE GREAT COALFIELD WAR. Boston: 1972.
 SEAGLE, Sister Blandina. AT THE END OF THE SANTA FE TRAIL. Columbus, Ohio: 1932.
 TAYLOR, Morris F. TRINIDAD, COLORADO TERRITORY. Trinidad, Colorado: 1966.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 37 ° 10 ' 22 "	Degrees Minutes Seconds 104 ° 30 ' 37 "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "		
NE	37 ° 10 ' 22 "	104 ° 29 ' 59 "				
SE	37 ° 9 ' 52 "	104 ° 29 ' 59 "				
SW	37 ° 9 ' 52 "	104 ° 30 ' 37 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **132 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
not applicable			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Willard D. Louden & Ronald Passarelli

ORGANIZATION: **Trinidad Historical Society, inc.** DATE: **Nov. 10, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
c/o Trinidad State Junior College

CITY OR TOWN: **Trinidad** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u><i>Stephen H. Vane</i></u></p> <p>Title <u><i>State Liaison Officer</i></u></p> <p>Date <u><i>12/12/72</i></u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Robert H. Utley</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u><i>2/28/73</i></u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>W. M. ...</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u><i>2.27.73</i></u></p>
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**THE
HISTORIC BUILDINGS
OF
CENTRAL TRINIDAD**

A survey conducted through the City Demonstration Agency by
the Trinidad Historical Society

Willard C. Loudon---program coordinator and editor
Corene Johnson and Edith Ruscetti---assistants

**INTRODUCTION
and
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

THE BUILDINGS OF
HISTORIC TRINIDAD



We are new---all of us---at this particular game will have undoubtedly made more than a few mistakes. errors may be ones both of omission and commission and may be greivous indeed. A certain number of errors are almost inevitable in any such undertaking as this and that becomes doubly true when one is pressed by the necessary but troublesome nature of deadlines, limited budgets, and contractual requirements. But, beyond that, it is most likely that I not only have made errors completely of my own doing, but have also, inadvertantly compounded the errors of my researchers. For this I can only apolôgize and this I do.

It would not be practical for me to acknowledge all of the people who have actively worked on this project or assisted it in so many different ways. Their thanks will to be a general one and their reward merely that of knowing they did a job the best they could. I would like to single out and express my special appreciation to Fred Fernandez and to Frank Saccommanno of the County Assessor's Office for their wholehearted cooperation and assistance in going through the records of that office. Pat and Henry Furu were absolutely invaluable to us by making their records available to us at all times despite considerable inconvenience to themselves and their office staff. Glenn Aultman has been most helpful to me in this project in several ways. First of all he worked long hours at times in order that I might have a particular group of pictures when I needed them. Secondly I am indebted to him.

editor's note

mitting me to use many of the fine old pictures that he
a hold-over from his father who was a pioneer Trinidad
ographer. The outstanding collection of the Aultman Stud-
has been purchased and now belongs to the State Historical
Society of Colorado but they have granted Glenn control over
these valuable negatives for the time being. All of the early
photographs in this book are from that collection. We are
most fortunate in the Trinidad area to have two outstanding
historians in the persons of Dr. Morris Taylor, professor and
department head at Trinidad State Junior College, and Mr. Roy
Mitchell, curator of the Pioneer Museum, Bloom House and Baca
House. Both men have been of the greatest assistance to me
and have given freely of their time and their expertise. Fin-
ally, I wish to express my personal indebtedness to Langdon
Morris for his assistance. This brilliant and highly regarded
Denver Architect has served this project well in many capaci-
ties, not the least of which was his unfailing enthusiasm for
this project and for Trinidad's future.

Willard C. Loudon
Program Coordinator

August 18, 1970

In answering the question of when a town was established, one must determine, if possible, when the first structures with any claim to permanency were built. Using this criterion, it may be said that Trinidad was born in March of 1861, when, at this site, along the banks of the clear, mountain stream called the Purgatoire, the first cluster of adobe and/or log huts appeared. Trinidad acquired her name a few months later when a grid of streets was laid out to accommodate the growth of this little frontier, territorial town. Naturally, very few buildings or even parts of buildings from that territorial period remain, but the adobe brick and mud plaster Baca House is one such building. This building is now part of the outstanding Trinidad museum complex belonging to the State Historical Society of Colorado. It was built by John Hough in 1869, and soon thereafter was acquired by Felipe Baca.

A U.S. patent to the townsite was granted in 1877, which removed the obstacle of cloudy land titles in conflict with the Vigil and St. Vrain (Las Animas) Grant of 1843. Other circumstances were developing that stimulated the growth of Trinidad still further.

In 1876, the narrow-gauge Rio Grande Railroad reached the new town of El Moro about four miles down the Purgatoire, and the broad-gauge Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad laid tracks into Trinidad in the late summer of 1878. Those were important commercial links, providing, among other things, shipping facilities for the then prospering cattle and sheep ranches of the region. The coming of the railroads also gave impetus to the coal-mining industry and the related production of coke. Within a few years Trinidad was surrounded by satellite coal camps---several of them with great rows of glowing coke ovens adjacent.

During the formative first two decades of Trinidad's development the cultural traits deriving from Spain and Mexico were of prime importance in shaping the nature and character of the town. Increasing immigration from the eastern part of the country modified this, and Trinidad, like many southwestern towns, became a cultural amalgamation. The population of Las Animas County was ethnically diversified with the arrival of great numbers of men, women, and children from the countries of southern and eastern Europe. This great wave of people came primarily for the work offered by the coal mines and coke ovens. One of the outcomes of those economic and cultural changes was the so-called Ludlow Massacre of 1914. This was a classic example of management-labor strife in the early, industrial America and ranks in significance with the Pullman strike troubles in Chicago in 1894.

During the period from 1879 to 1900, Trinidad achieved much of her expansion and became the center of a large and diversified economic area in which railroading, coal mining, coke production, ranching and agriculture were all important factors. From those twenty years of growth Trinidad still has many lovely old homes and beautiful business structures of the late Victorian style. The expansion of Trinidad and of the neighboring camps continued after the turn of the century and so the town is also rich in Architecture dating from the first two decades of the twentieth century.

Partial economic paralysis set in with the 1930's. First the depression, and then basic industrial changes brought a rapid decline of the coal mining industry. As the coal camps disappeared, Trinidad settled into a time of greatly reduced prosperity. That condition probably, as much as anything, accounts for the survival in Trinidad of such a large number of buildings ranging from the territorial days to the end of the prosperous 1920's.

August 20, 1970

Dr. Morris F. Taylor
Historian
Trinidad State Junior College

To undertake, with optimism, a project of this magnitude and complexity and hope to complete it in the relatively short span of three months, one need be stupid or incredibly naive. I plead the latter and shall hope to be so judged.

In May of 1970, the Trinidad Historical Society entered into a contract with the Trinidad City Demonstration Agency (Model Cities) which called for a survey of all the buildings in the main business district which were of historic and/or architectural significance. A cursory survey showed we were dealing with seventy five or more buildings. Ultimately we studied and compiled basic information on ninety three buildings before reducing the number submitted in this booklet to fifty five. Certainly by now it is quite obvious to those of us who have worked in this project that Trinidad does indeed have a tremendous amount to offer to all who are interested in or intrigued by western history and/or Victorian architecture.

To begin with, Trinidad's setting is almost idyllically unique. Few, if any, towns or cities in the world have a more distinctive and memorable backdrop than that provided by the looming stairsteps of Fisher's Peak. Fisher's Peak is merely

the western terminal of a great, sinuous chain of basalt-capped mesas that thrust eastward from the Sangre De Cristo Mountains for over a hundred miles. Some of these imposing mesas rise abruptly by as much as thirty six hundred feet above the surrounding terrain; therefore, at elevations between nine and ten thousand feet, they are among the highest mesas on the North American Continent. These are indeed awesome mesas.

It is this formidable topographic barrier of eastward thrusting mesas butting against the north-south axis of the frontal range of the Rocky Mountains that has funneled so much western history through the site of present Trinidad and over the comparatively easy route of Raton Pass. Fascinating tales of intrigue, duplicity, violence and death are involved in the naming and placement on the map of both Fisher's Peak, the island mesa looming above Trinidad, and El Rio De Las Animas Perdidas en Purgatoire, the mountain stream flowing through the town. Now this stream is usually referred to simply as the Purgatoire but it is sometimes further altered and corrupted into "Picketwire". These various names alone tell us something of the influences of the Spaniards, the French and the mountain men who used this route prior to the 1860's when Trinidad herself came into being.

There is much charm to be found along Trinidad's gently winding and rolling streets, many of which are still paved with bricks. A great many fine, old homes dating from the Victorian era and Trinidad's heyday are scattered throughout

the town but in this particular study we have limited our interests and efforts to a few streets in the very heart of the city. The vast majority of the buildings we present herewith are located within the rather limited boundaries of the original townsite, hence, on the legal descriptions, we have the initials "O.T.S." signifying "original town site". There is no other town here in the southwest with which we are familiar that has such a superb concentration of Victorian buildings in both quantity and quality. Obviously, not all of the buildings we have included are of anywhere near equal quality either historically or esthetically. However, we present much of the "downtown" area almost in its entirety in order to demonstrate the strong visual impact imparted by the town as a whole. In several notable instances the buildings have remained virtually unchanged, particularly on the exterior, for nearly ninety years. In many other instances the buildings have been altered, almost inevitably for the worse, by aluminum and glass and paint and by offensive, projecting signs.

We who have worked on this project believe Trinidad is deserving of a "face lifting". We emphatically do not want to see appreciable numbers of these buildings further degraded by so-called "modernization", or mindlessly destroyed to make way for yet another parking lot or a building of less beauty and basic integrity than that of the existing structure (as is so often the case in renewal projects). In many cases, perhaps removal of certain signs is all that is necessary. In some

instances, a fair amount of renovation is required but, properly planned, even this will prove cheaper than the solutions often resorted to. Rarely, if ever, would true restoration be called for in order for the building to retain its basic character and charm. In order that Trinidad may retain and enhance its uniqueness we need widespread recognition among the townspeople and building owners of this uniqueness and its potential economic and esthetic value to the citizens of this town and all the multitudes who will visit and cherish these qualities. We need vision, we need planning, we need protective and restrictive ordinances, we need effort and we need the cooperation of our residents and of the various governmental agencies that are vitally concerned with just this sort of program. We hope this tentative, first step will launch us in the right direction.

This program has been conducted largely through unpaid, voluntary efforts on the part of nearly fifty Trinidad residents. Most of these people are members of the Trinidad Historical Society. We have met at night and we have met at noon. We have burned the midnight oil, haunted county offices and the abstract office, prowled the library stacks at both the college and the public library, we have talked to dozens of owners and pried into their records as well as their minds. We have, without exception, been tolerated in good grace and have been assisted by all we contacted. This speaks well for our town and her citizens.

The foothills, mesas and canyons surrounding Trinidad are the scene of much archaeological evidence, both historic and prehistoric, of trade and warfare between the plains Indians and the peoples of the mountains and the Rio Grande Valley. During the historic period the mountain Utes, the Comanches, Cheyennes, Kiowas and Arapahoes of the plains were important influences in the region until the white men forced them out and onto reservations, mainly in the 1870's.

During the early part of the Civil War there were some Confederate guerrillas, mostly mounted raiders, in the neighborhood of Trinidad (established in 1861) and then in March of 1862, the Colorado Volunteers marched through the snow past the little settlement on their way over Raton Pass to New Mexico, where they destroyed Confederate hopes in the battles of La Glorieta and Apache Canyon. And it was in the 1860's that Trinidad became a post office and mail-stage station on the line from Missouri to Santa Fe and from Denver south. Very notable, of course, was the location through Trinidad of the Goodnight-Loving cattle trail in 1866 (the first major one of its kind) which, in a sense, was a prelude to Trinidad's importance as a tough and exciting cattle town during the unique and colorful open-range days of the 1880's. Here, for example, one of the biggest cattle companies on the public domain, the British-owned Prairie Land and Cattle Company, ltd., had its operating headquarters, managing many thousands of head of cattle over the vast ranges in Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

The area of southern Colorado of which Trinidad is the hub is rich in associations with the southwestern past. It is possible that Spanish contacts were made in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but it is in the early eighteenth century that we first have real proof that Spaniards came in from Santa Fe. Juan de Ulibarri and a few Spanish soldiers, apparently in pursuit of fleeing Pueblo Indians, were here in the juniper and pinon-studded foothills of the Sangre De Cristo mountains in 1706. In 1719 and 1720 Spanish probes into the region were stimulated in part by rumors of French traders among the Indian tribes on the vast plains to the east. The first direct French contact with Santa Fe that we know of was made by the Mallet brothers in 1739. Their route and routes followed by other eighteenth century Frenchmen may be regarded as the shaky beginnings of the later-famous Santa Fe Trail.

Captain William Becknell, who is often called the founder of the Santa Fe Trail, took his pack-mule train past the site of Trinidad in 1821 and over the Raton Pass on what later became known as the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. This was just after Mexico declared its independence from imperial Spain. Being south of the Arkansas, Trinidad's future location had been part of the Spanish Empire and remained a part of the Republic of Mexico until 1848.

Trinidad had more than passing acquaintance with such frontier greats as the incomparable Kit Carson (a superb statue of Carson may be seen here) and the well-known mountain man and Indian trader, "Uncle Dick" Wootton. For a time, beginning in 1882, the famous Bat Masterson served as the town marshall and kept a close eye on Trinidad's saloons dance-halls and gambling establishments, whose garish premises were frequented by the notorious "Doc" Holliday and others of his ilk. Trinidad has had her share of both the famous and the infamous and her history is both colorful and illustrious.

August 21, 1970

Morris F. Taylor
Historian
Trinidad State Junior College

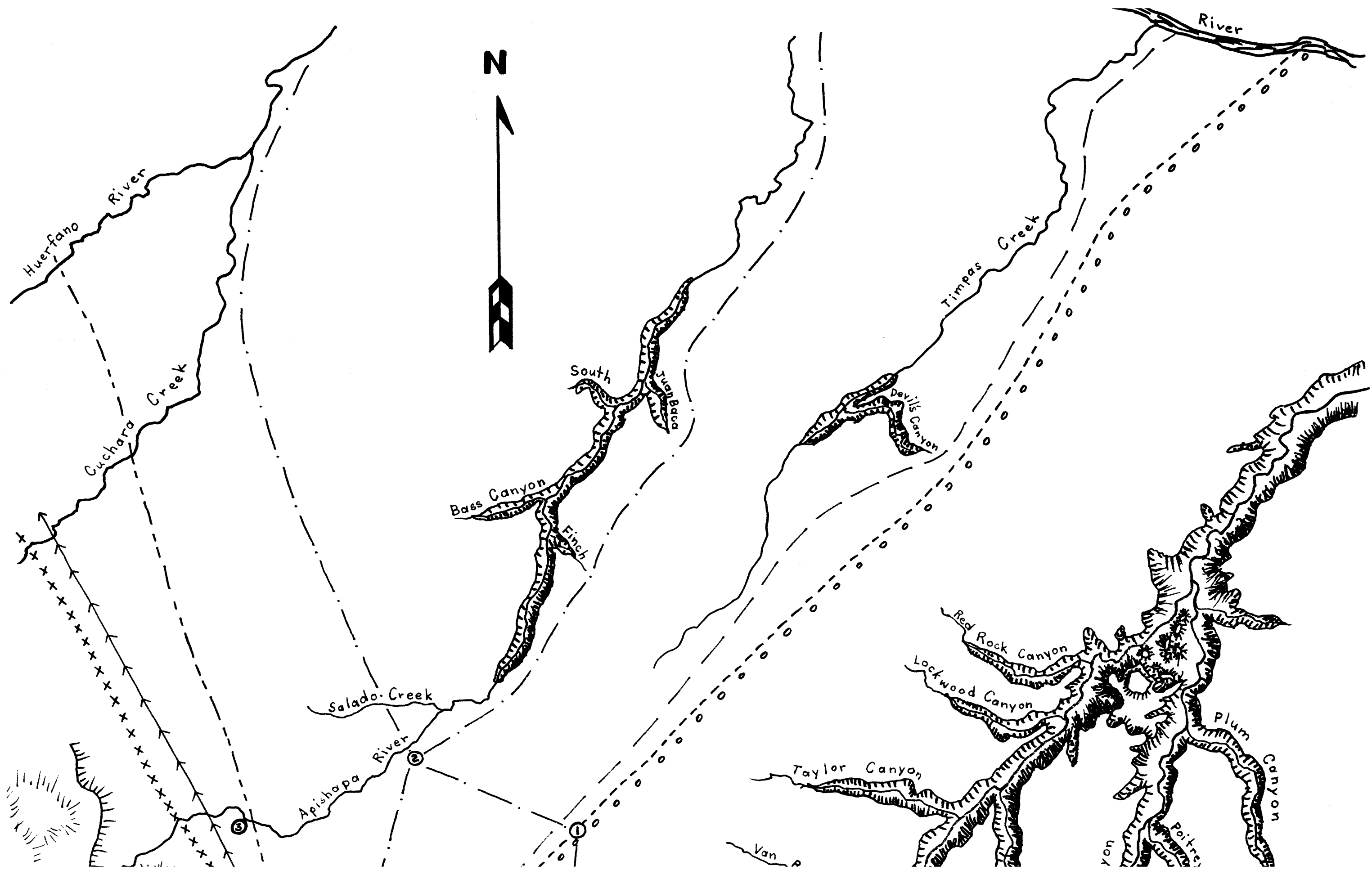
LEGEND FOR ROUTES AND TRAILS

1706	Juan de Ulibarri	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
1720	Villasur	→→→→→→→→→→
1739	Mallet Brothers	— — — — —
1821-1880	Santa Fe Trail (Mountain branch)	-----
1846	General Kearney	oooooooooooooooo
1850-1880	Santa Fe Trail (Emory's freight route from Ft. Leavenworth to Fort Union)
1866	Goodnight-Loving Cattle trails	— — — — —
1867=1875	Charley Goodnight cattle trails	— . — . — .

KEY TO POINTS OF HISTORIC INTEREST

- ① Hole in the Prairie
- ② Goodnight ranch
- ③ Captain Foster's stage station
- ④ Uncle Dick Wooton's toll station
- ⑤ Clifton House
- ⑥ Manco Burro Pass
- ⑦ Trinchera Pass
- ⑧ Emory Gap
- ⑨ Bill Metcalf's toll station

Map Scale: One inch equals five miles



Huerfano River

Cuchara Creek

Salado Creek

Apishapa River

Bass Canyon

Finch

South

Juan Bood

Devil's Canyon

Timpas Creek

Red Rock Canyon

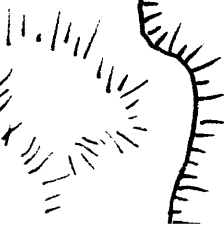
Lockwood Canyon

Taylor Canyon

Plum Canyon

Poitres

River



Van

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

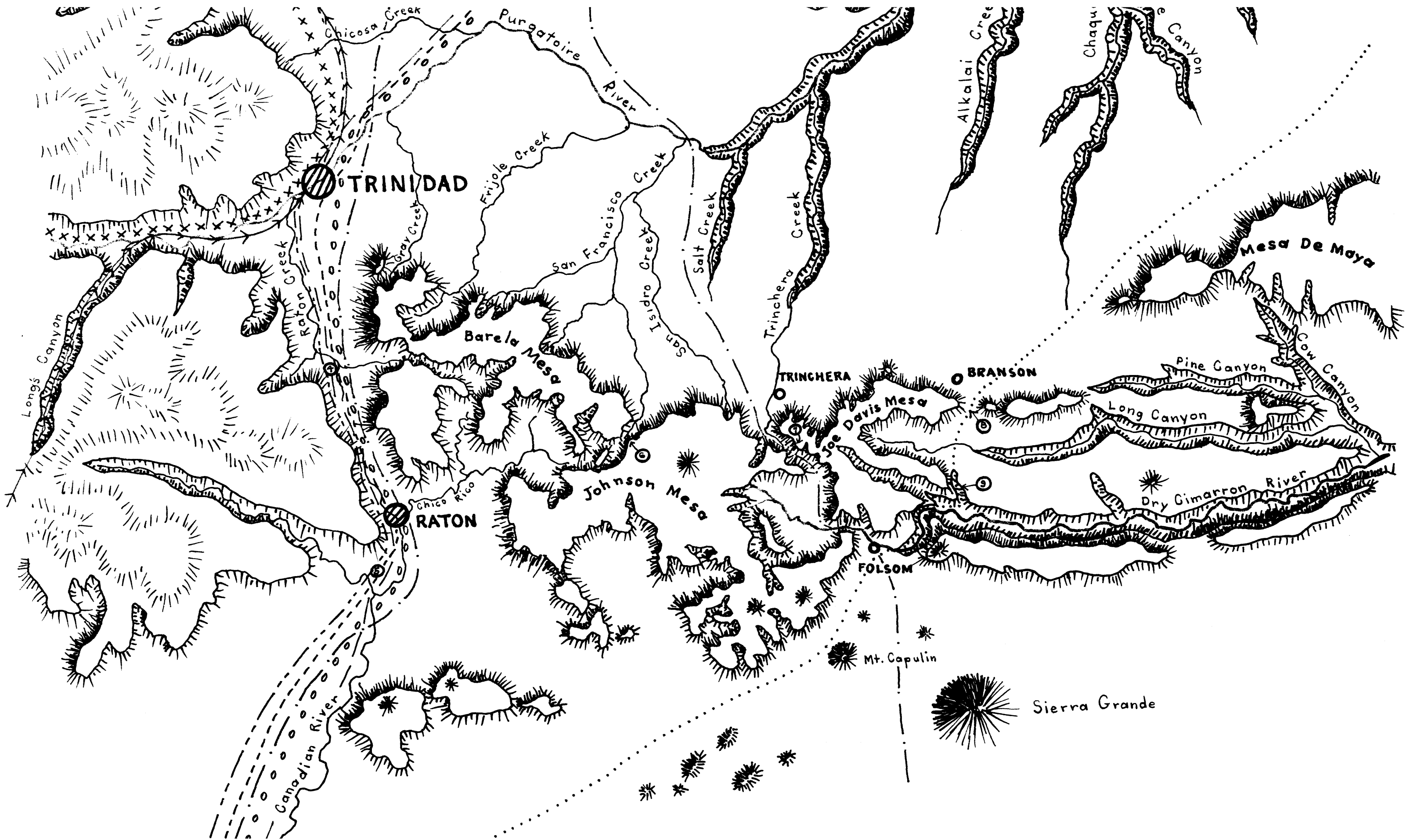
PROPERTY MAP FORM
SITE MAP

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Colorado	
COUNTY Las Animas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 23 1973	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		CORAZON de TRINIDAD	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Original Townsite	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
not applicable			
CITY OR TOWN:			
TRINIDAD			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Colorado		Las Animas	
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Merrick & Co., Engineers, Denver, Colorado, for Trinidad City Demonstration Agency			
SCALE: 1"=100'-0" Contour interval: 2'			
DATE: photography: 5 Dec. 1970 drawn: 16 Feb. 1971			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



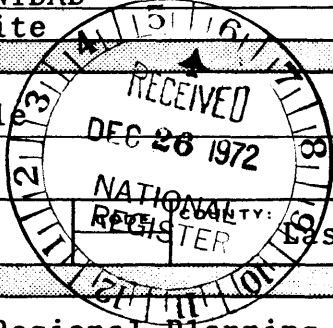
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM
LOCATION MAP
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Colorado	
COUNTY Las Animas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 28 1972

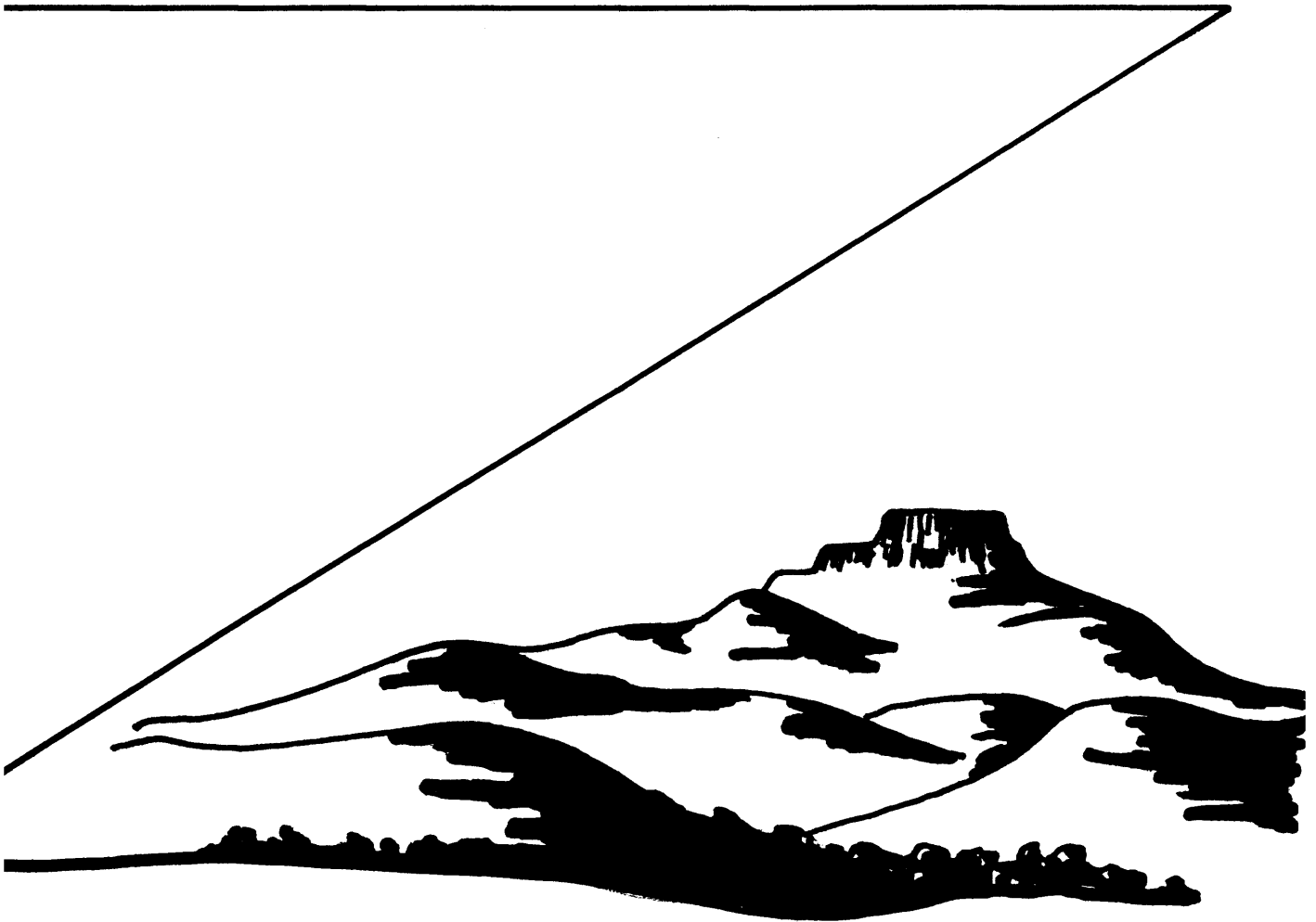
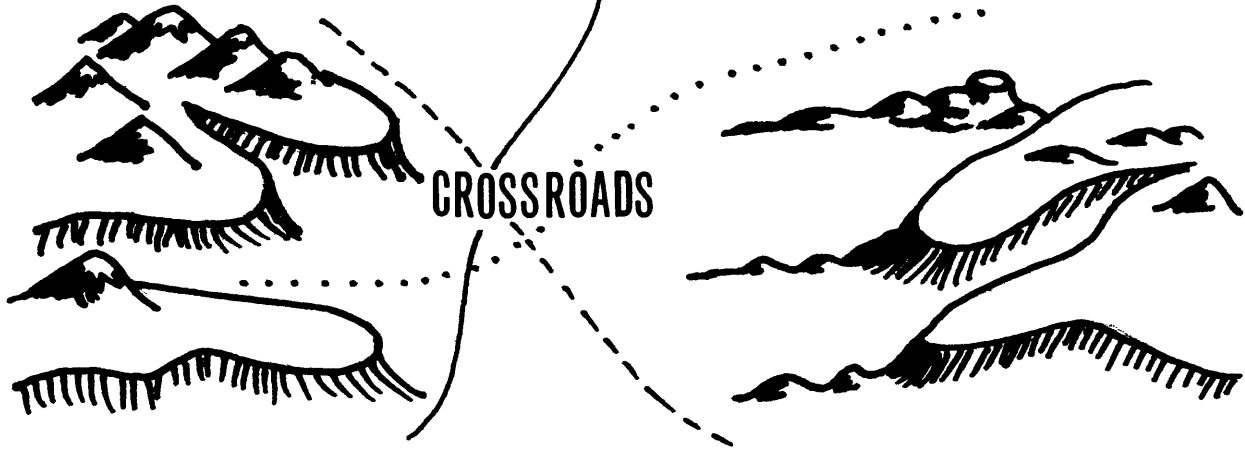
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME	
COMMON:	CORAZON de TRINIDAD
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Original Townsite
2. LOCATION	
STREET AND NUMBER:	not applicable
CITY OR TOWN:	TRINIDAD
STATE:	Colorado
COUNTY:	Las Animas
CODE	
3. MAP REFERENCE	
SOURCE:	Las Animas (County) Regional Planning Commission
SCALE:	1"=1000'-0" Contour interval: 20'
DATE:	June 1971
4. REQUIREMENTS	
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS	
1. Property boundaries where required.	
2. North arrow.	
3. Latitude and longitude reference.	



TRINIDAD AREA

HISTORIC CENTER OF WESTERN



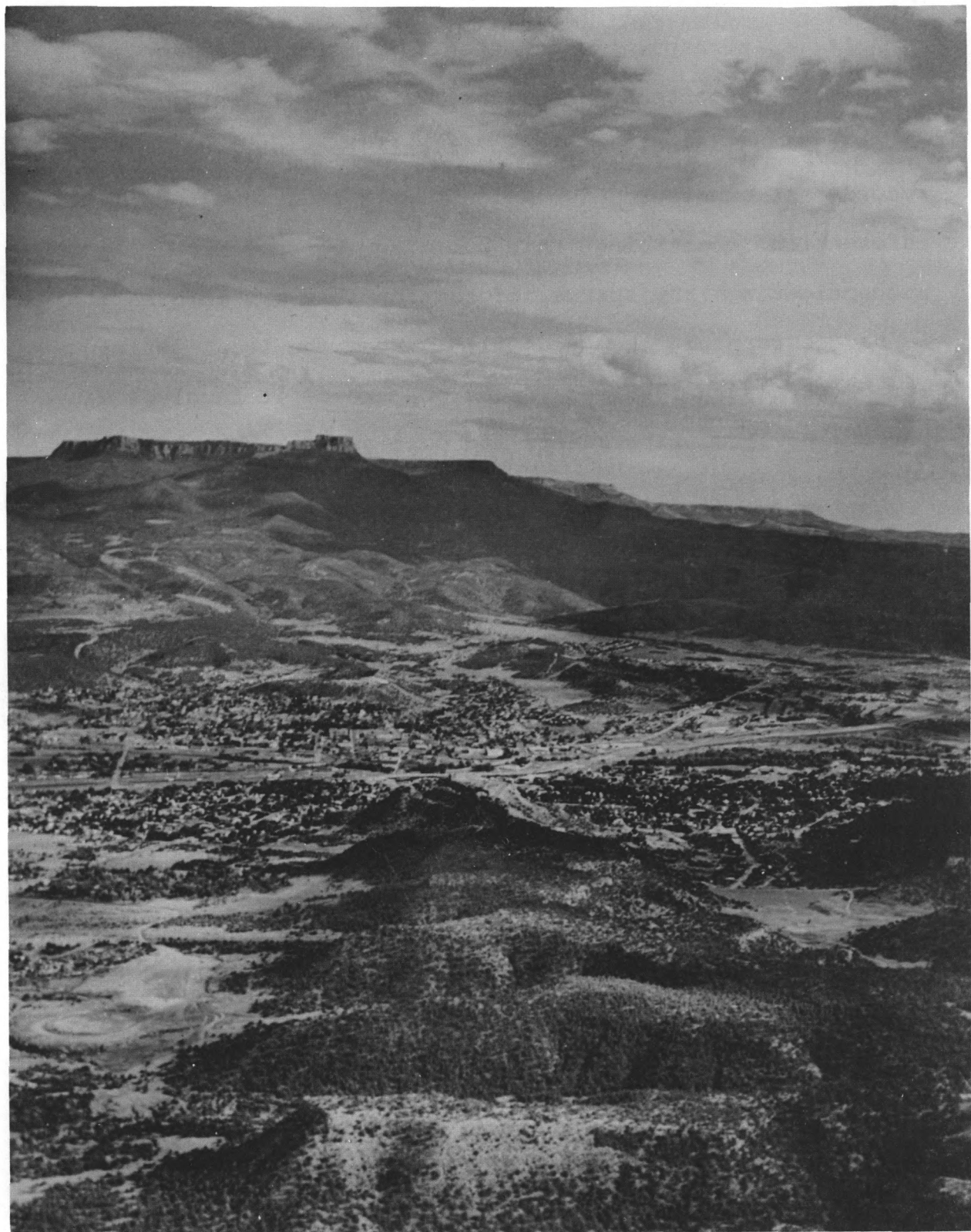
Map location #1.

It is, perhaps, ironic that this first building in our series is undoubtedly the least effectively researched of all our 55 buildings included in this booklet. Neither the records nor numerous discussions with individuals who had information concerning this building were of much help in authenticating the sparse information (and mis-information) we had concerning the "Red Mill". Even the legal description of the land involved seems obscure as it involves many parcels of land with owners and part-owners. The lots were involved in the original townsite, however, so the records begin in 1877 with Charles Thacker, Pascal Gerardi, Jose A. Salazar and Jacob W. Winkfield as the initial owners in some part of the property in question.

The existing structure surely went up in the first decade of the 1900's but the two most probable dates vary from 1901 to 1910. Though the city directories of that period do not substantiate it, the current owner has information that the "Red Mill" was an original name for the business and it presumably opened as a bar, gambling hall and house of prostitution and operated as such for many years. The handsome back-bar was recently imported from the Del Agua Bar in the coal camp of Del Agua.

Both pictures were taken in July, 1970. The upper one is a view of the town from Simpson's Rest.

**Legal Description: East part of Lots 1-7; Lot 8; Block 110
OTS.**



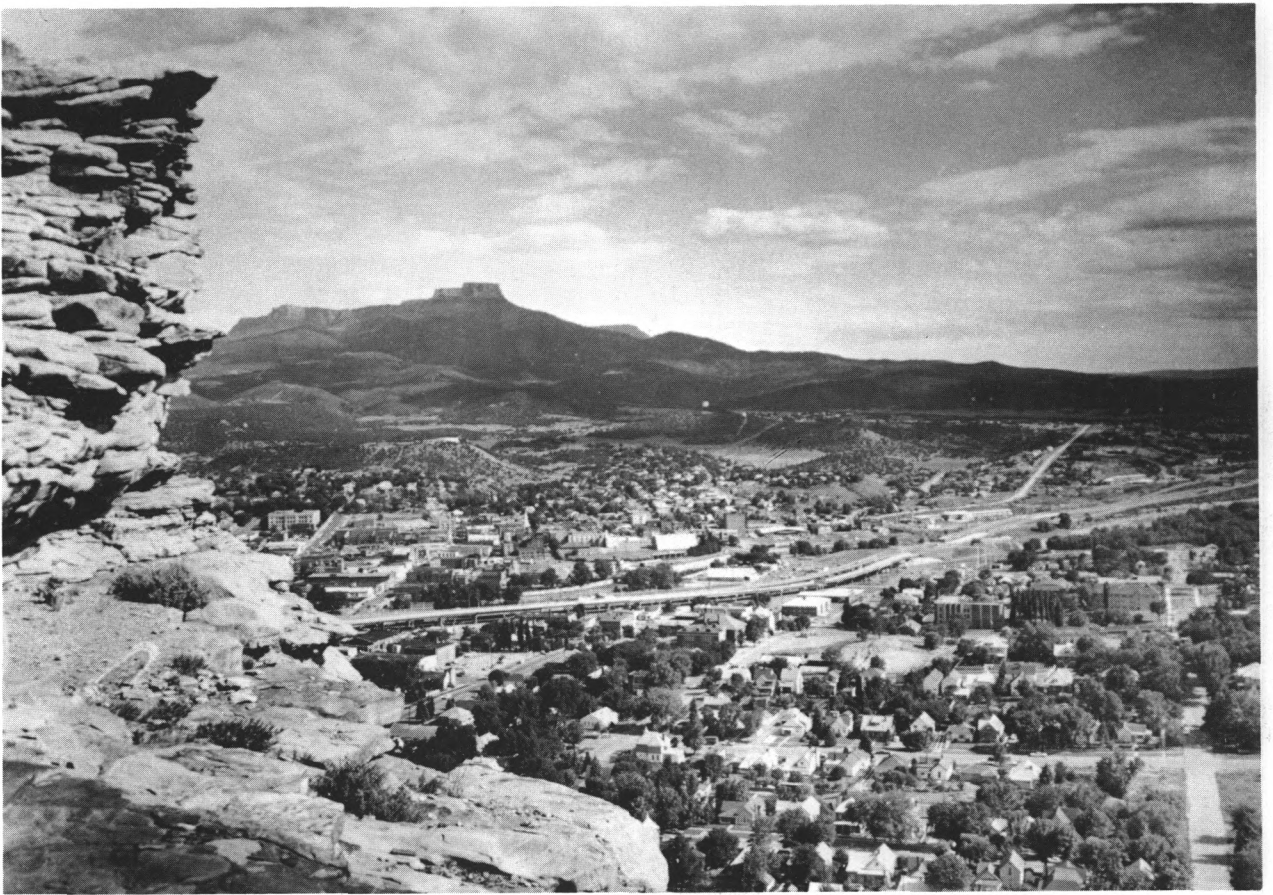
Map location #2.

West's Theater at 432 West Main provides an example of Victorian eclecticism. In this three-story brick the Romanesque style is combined with elements of the Greek. Obviously Romanesque are the arches decorating the facade of the second story. The columns with their Ionic capitals at the entrance of the Theater (shown in the upper photograph) are Greek. The balustrade adorning the roof of the first story remains intact although lights have been added.

John W. Terry originally owned the lot on which the theater now stands, the first record on the lot being 1870 when Terry sold to Isabella Beard. Edward West acquired part of the lot in 1880 and a second part in 1882 and had the theater completed in the Spring of 1908.

The recent photograph was taken in August, 1970.

Legal Description: West part of Lot 2; Lot 3; Block 111 OTS.



Map location #3.

Based purely upon the raised brick and stone-framed medallions which decorate this structure, one may assume the building was erected about the turn of the century. The earliest actual record on the building is 1912, at which time it was being used by the Sipe Mortuary as a carriage house for their hearse and horses. The stalls are still to be found in the basement of this rather charming little building which now serves as a garage for the city.

No specific address is listed for this building other than it is in the 100 block of North Animas Street.

The lower photograph on the facing page was taken in July, 1970.



Map location #4.

Residents of Trinidad and Las Animas County may have particular interest in the fact that the book All About Las Animas County written by Dr. Michael Beshoar and published in 1882 may be found in the cornerstone of the City Hall. According to the Chronicle-News, December 18, 1908, the book by Dr. Beshoar, an 1888 copy of the City Directory, and copies of two daily papers were all to be placed in the cornerstone of the new two-story stone building on North Animas Street at the dedication on January 1, 1909.

With a flourish of Victorian eclecticism, the architect designed towers from the late Italian Renaissance period, placed a French Renaissance balustrade atop the Hall, and fronted the building with Greek Ionic capitals on polished black granite columns on early Italian Renaissance bases. The total effect gives a strong Romanesque feeling.

The photographs (date of the upper one unknown, of the later one July, 1970) indicate that the City Hall has suffered few exterior alterations by man or nature since its erection.



Map location #5.

The Trinidad Public Library at 202 North Animas Street stands almost unchanged since it was built in 1904. This structure is quite typical of Victorian architecture in the combining of a variety of styles in a single structure. For example, we see the capitals are Ionic, the base is Italian Renaissance, and the pediment is Roman. The style is one commonly used for libraries and public buildings at this time. (City Hall bears a close resemblance to the library indicating a conscious effort by the architect to match the qualities of the library.)

The stone of which the Library is built came from local quarries. At the time of construction there were three major quarries providing Trinidad sandstone in the area and many smaller ones. The large quarries were owned by James Radford, William Wienbroer, and T. D. Mitchell, father of Arthur Roy Mitchell.

The upper photograph on the facing page shows the library shortly after it was completed; the lower photograph shows it in July of 1970.



Map location #6.

The original deed to this property was held by John R. Skelley. Sketchy records indicate that Mary L. Skelley sold the property to Elbridge B. Sopris in May 1887. Apparently Sopris relinquished the property to Edward West some time previous to 1889.

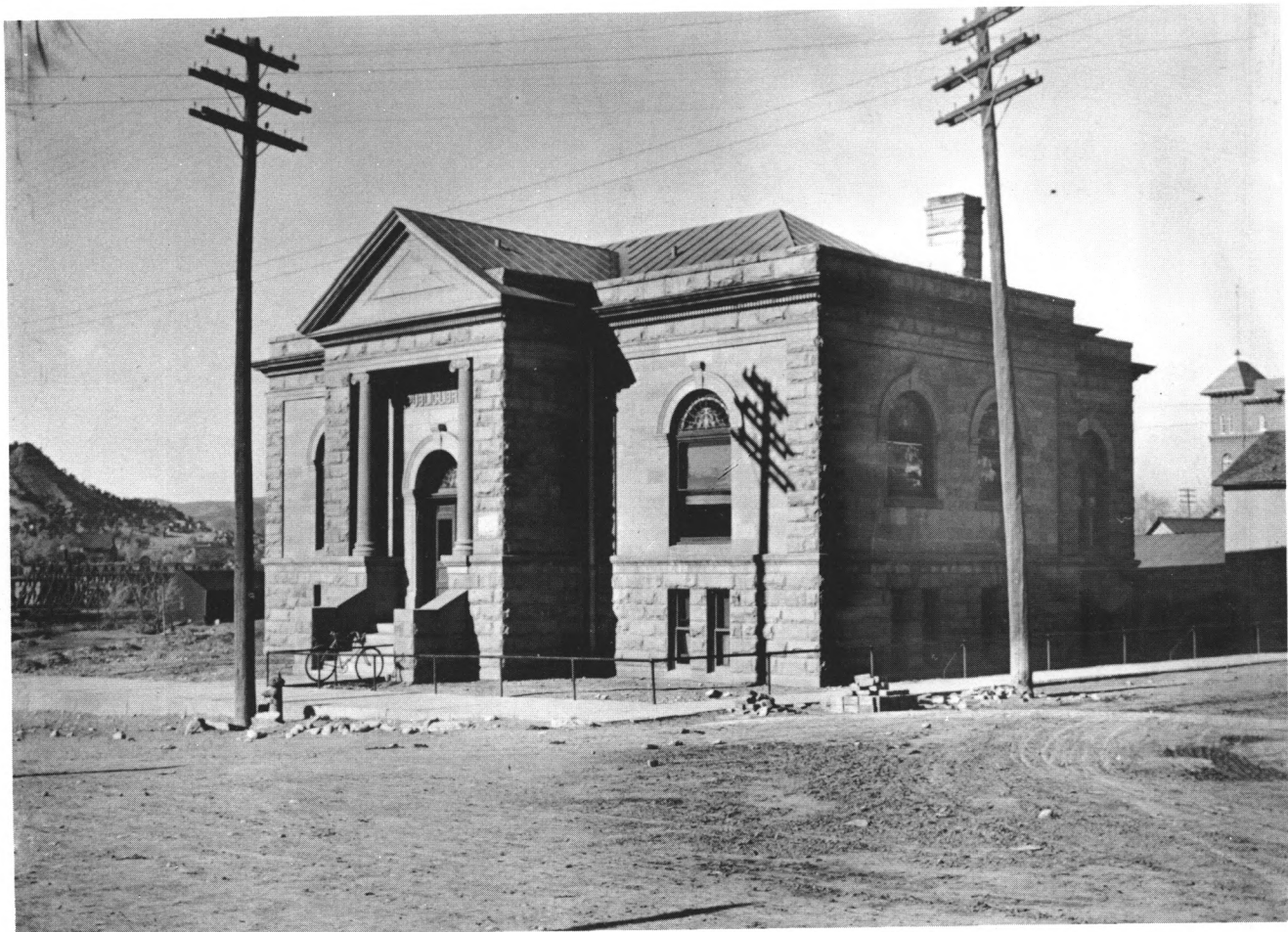
Edward West, a prominent early citizen extremely active in business transactions in the city, had the West Block built on the location that is now 333 West Main.

The upper photograph, taken in the 1890's, reveals the Victorian compulsion to combine styles, in this case an interesting synthesization of the Near East style and the Romanesque. The details of the combined forms, however, are well-balanced and give the building grace and style.

The second photograph, taken in July, 1970, reveals how the original facade has been modified.

For a period of years the West Building housed the old Post Office and also Aultman Studios. It may be noted here that Trinidad can boast an extensive photographic record of its growth because the outstanding pioneer photographer, O. E. Aultman (and later his son) was diligent and prolific in covering the city, turning out excellent pictures.

In addition to the existing business structures is West's lovely old home on Willow at the corner of Colorado. Legal Description: South 117.8 feet of Lot 3; Block 112 OTS.



Map location #7.

The original owner of the lot on which the Sopris Block was built was John R. Skelley. The earliest record on the lot is in his name on May 8, 1878. The listed owner in 1883 at the time of the construction of the building was Mary L. Skelley. The property passed from her ownership to that of Elbridge B. Sopris on May 22, 1887. Sopris apparently held the property until 1908. The next time his name appears on the records is with Mary L. Sopris, March 6, 1908, when the deed was passed on to Peter Berta.

It might be well to add some pertinent details about John R. Skelley, Mary L. Skelley, and Elbridge B. Sopris at this point. After John R. Skelley died, his wife Mary L. Skelley married Sopris and this accounts for her name appearing as both Skelley and Sopris. Sopris is the General Elbridge B. Sopris who founded a now defunct coal camp in the area that is still called Sopris.

The style of the Sopris Block has been designated as Western Victorian.

Legal Description: Part of Lots 1 and 2. East 13 feet of the South 105' of Lot 1; South 105' of Lot 2; Block 112 OTS.



Map location #8.

Enhancing the interest of many of the buildings are the records of ownership, for many of the illustrious names involved in Trinidad's early history appear in these records. For example, the original deeds for the lots on which the Las Animas Block now stands were held by Maurice Wise (lot 4) and John R. Skelley (lot 1). The next date on the records indicates that Mary L. Skelley sold parts of or the whole of lots 1 and 4 to Elbridge Sopris on May 22, 1887. On October 27, 1887 the deed for part of or all of lot 4 was transferred to Mary L. Skelley. Other names are given in transactions involving lots 1 and 4. Then Sopris' name enters the records again in 1908 when he and Mary L. Sopris sold all of or part of lot 1 to Peter Barta.

The two-story brick was built in 1883 while Sopris held the deed. In fact the block has also been referred to as the Sopris Block by many local residents.

The upper photograph was taken about 1910 and the lower one in July, 1970.

Legal Description: Part of Lot 1 and Lot 4. East 23 feet of Lot 4; Block 112 OTS.



Map location #9.

The Hamerslough Building is a fine example of the results of Victorian exuberance and eclecticism. Of special interest among the many intricate details are the Romanesque capitals and the German Gothic corner towers.

Hamerslough is a pioneer name in merchandising in the area, Ralph Hamerslough being the first of the family in Trinidad. He founded the R. Hamerslough Co. in partnership with DeBree, locating the business on West Main and Beech in an old adobe, one-story building. When W. B., the brother of Ralph, came to Trinidad from Germany in 1885, he entered the company working as a clerk. A second store, which went to DeBree when the partnership dissolved, was opened in the Packer Block in 1887.

In 1900 the Hamersloughs bought one half of the present building from M. Biernbaum and then a year later acquired the other half of the building and improved and remodeled it. When Ralph died in 1903, W. B. (Ben) incorporated the company and continued the business under his name until 1930.

The upper photograph is dated prior to 1910; the lower is dated July, 1970.

Legal Description: South 144 feet of Lot 1; Block 113 OTS.



Map location #10.

The Chronicle-News emerged in 1887 when the Chronicle owned by Dan Stone and the News owned by E. O. Blair merged.

In 1900 the Hamerslough Company built the Chronicle-News building to house the offices of the publication. In 1911 a second story was added to the building.

Putting out a daily paper each day except Sunday, the newspaper for years also published a weekly edition which came out every Thursday.

The upper photograph shows the building shortly after the second story was added. The date of the lower photograph is July, 1970.

Marcus Biernbaum was the original owner of the lot, his name being recorded on July 21, 1877.

Legal Description: Part of Lots 1 and 2; Block 113 OTS.



Map location #11.

The building at 137 West Main, originally the Palace, is one of the few buildings in Trinidad built for a saloon and used continuously for that purpose except during Prohibition when it was converted to a confectionery. The Palace was supposed to be one of the most elegant saloons in Trinidad. The first floor contained the bar, which still retains the original back bar, the marble terazzo floor with a Greek key marble border, and the mahogany wainscoting. A kitchen was also on the first floor in the back. A beautiful dining room and a large gambling room occupied the second floor. The oriel was originally of stained glass enclosed in a gingerbread Victorian frame.

It is said that Carrie Nation once went to the Palace when she visited Trinidad, gave a stern lecture on the evils of drink, and when firmly but politely asked to leave, did so without incident.

Peter Munnecom, who obtained the original deed in 1877, was the original owner. There is conflicting evidence about who owned the property in 1911 when the Palace was built. One source suggests that J. A. Bell was the owner. Another indicates that John Aiello, the banker, purchased the land, which was part of the Baca Land Grant, for the purpose of building a saloon for his brother Charles.

The date the upper photograph was taken is unknown. The lower photograph was taken in July, 1970.

Legal Description: Southwest part of Lot 4---20 3/4 feet by 123 feet; Block 114 OTS.



Map location #12.

The "Famous" Business Block, as this site was called at one time, has had a complete change of face. The original photograph, made in approximately 1911, shows the two-story brick facade very nearly as it looked when it was built in 1898. The most obvious architectural features are the oriels on either side of the second floor front and the five Romanesque arches.

The original owner of the lot was Peter J. Munnecom, to whom the city granted the deed in 1877. In 1898, when the building went up, the lot was owned by J. A. Bell.

The lower photograph was made in July, 1970.

Legal Description: West part of Lot 3; East part of Lot 4; Block 114 OTS.

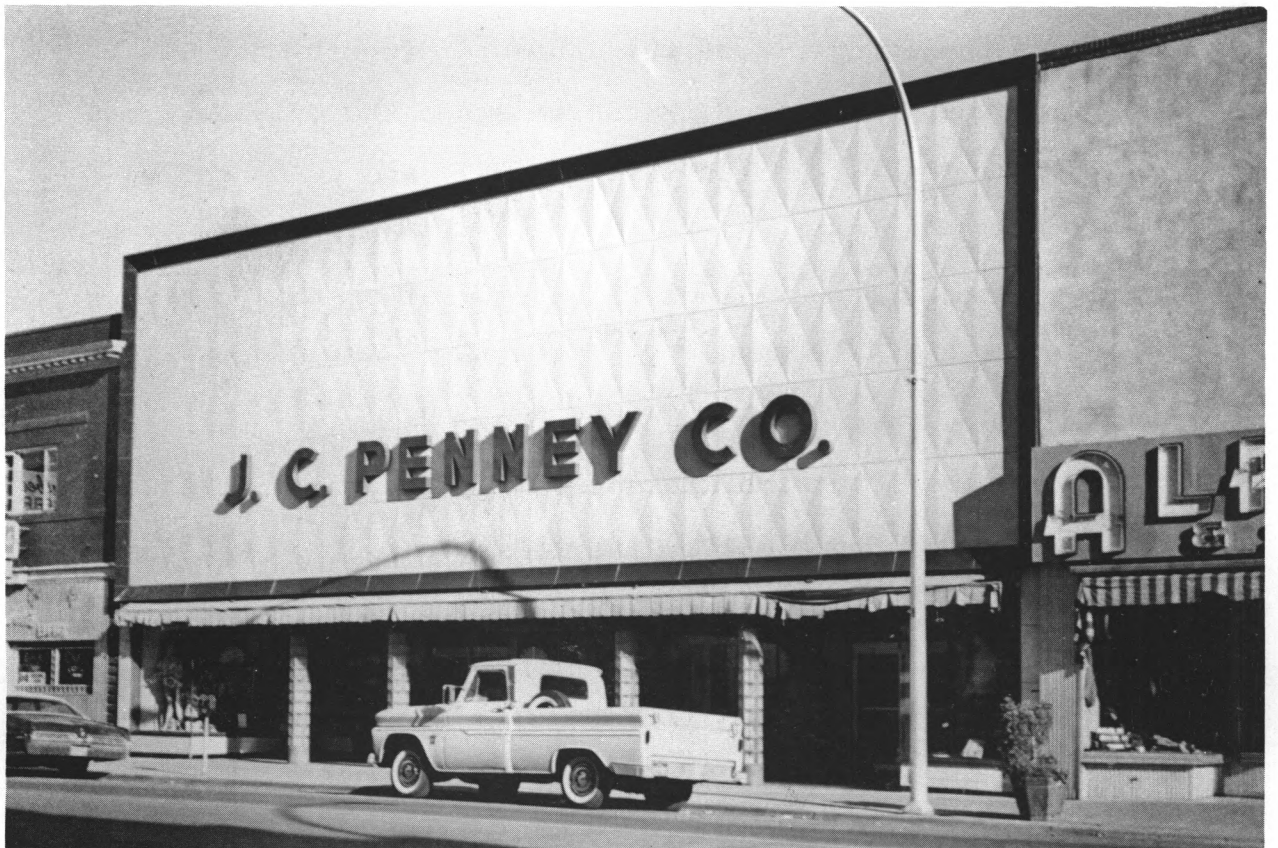


Map location #13.

Two very prominent early day citizens of Trinidad have figured in the ownership of the land and property now listed as 121 West Main. Peter J. Munnecom owned the original site after acquiring it from the City in 1877 and evidence indicates that J. A. Bell who figured in the construction of so many of Trinidad's buildings was the owner of this one when it was constructed in 1888. The building underwent a major remodeling in 1950.

The upper photograph, taken looking east from West Main Street, is dated about 1910. The lower photograph was taken in July, 1970.

Legal Description: East 21 1/3 feet of Lot 3; Block 114 OTS.



Map location #14.

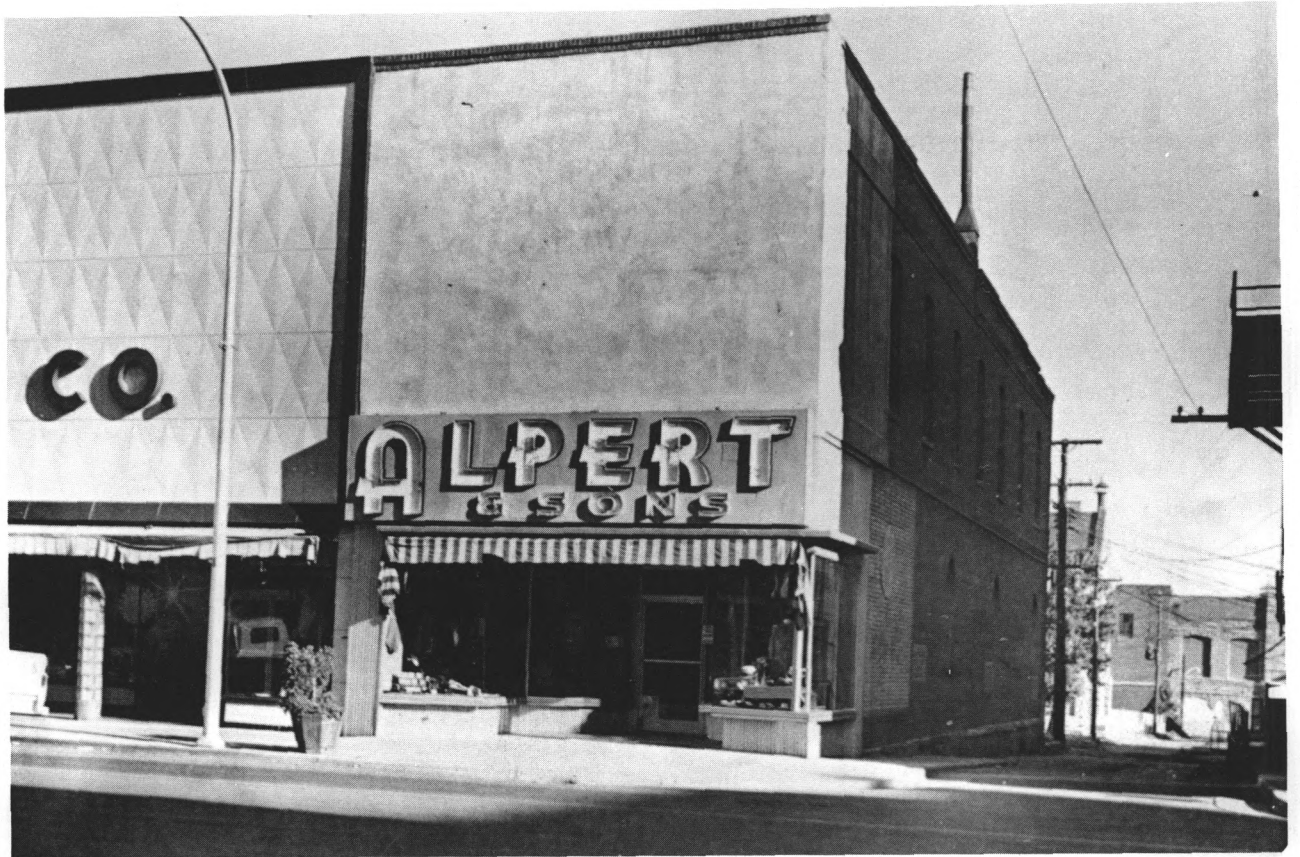
During the last three decades of the 19th century many fine, luxurious hotels were built in booming towns throughout the state of Colorado. Trinidad was no exception. In 1880 the doors were opened on the Grand Union Hotel in Trinidad and that same hotel stands largely unchanged except since the mid 1890's it has been called the Columbian Hotel. Its style is typical Western Victorian with many interesting details such as the decorative window lintels, cast iron trim and hammered-metal ceilings. John Conkie was the original owner as well as architect and builder of the hotel.

The hotel contained nearly 100 sleeping rooms, a large lobby, a lavish saloon, a formal dining room, ornate ballroom, a barber shop and gambling rooms in the basement. Much of the charm and flavor of this flamboyant hotel remains.

Many notable persons have spent time in this hotel. Doc Holliday supposedly spent many hours in the gambling hall, President Hoover and his wife spent several days here, Will Rogers and Wiley Post stopped here enroute to Alaska where they were killed a short time later, and several movie celebrities such as Douglas Fairbanks and his wife Mary Pickford have spent nights here. The hotel registers one other item to be added to the "George Washington slept here" tradition; while Tom Mix occupied room 214 his horse slept in room 212.

The upper photograph was taken in the mid 1890's and the lower was taken in July, 1970.

Legal Description: Lots 1 and 2, Block 114 OTS.



Map location #15.

The earliest written record on the site which is now occupied by the Trinidad National Bank is the deed of trust which released the property from Delos Chappell to Charles Poitrey in 1892. A second written record is the lease of 1902. At this time the Horse Shoe Club leased the basement and part of the first and second floors for \$150.00 per month with the provision that the club "pay for all water used . . . and keep said basement free from straw, papers and all kinds of rubbish at their own expense."

When Mr. Poitrey died in Albuquerque in 1903, his wife and daughters Mae and Lulu inherited the property. Though the Trinidad National Bank leased the property since 1920 they did not acquire the property from the Poitrey heirs until 1945.

The interior of the brick building constructed in 1888 on North Commercial still contains many of the original accessories, including the decorated plaster ceiling, frosted glass surrounding the cages and the brass cages themselves. The exterior has been extensively remodeled---primarily by having plastered over the original exterior.

The upper photograph dated about 1908 reveals that the bank at one time occupied a part of the Grand Union Hotel (Columbian). The lower photograph is dated July, 1970.

Legal Description: Lot 6, Block 114 OTS.



Map location #16.

A stone building of combined Georgian and Romanesque styles replaced the original adobe church in 1885 when Holy Trinity Catholic Church was dedicated.

According to church records, Don Felipe Baca owned the land and built the original adobe structure. When Father Charles Pinto was pastor some land donated to the church by Baca (the site occupied by The Schneider Brewing Co.) was sold and other money raising efforts, spanning a period of two years, were required before there was a sufficiently large fund to build the existing church. The church was blessed and dedicated at the Solemn Pontifical mass attended by some 2000 persons. The services were spoken in English by Fr. James Holland and in Spanish by R. Salvado Persone.

The date of the lower photograph is July, 1970.



Map location #17.

The Packer Building, called after John Orlando Packer, a Union war veteran and graduate of the University of Albany Law School who migrated to Trinidad from Kansas in 1871, has occupied its site on the 200 block North Commercial since 1884. It is one of the original "fire-proof" buildings in the city. It is said to have fire-proof walls between each store so that should one burn, the others would not be affected.

Classified as Western Victorian, the facade is sandstone with rusticated sandstone trim. The cornice is tin. Much of the interior of the building has been kept intact. The handrail and balusters on the stairway, the newel post of oak, and the tin ceilings in two of the stores have all been retained.

In the upper photograph the Packer Building appears in the right center. The picture was taken in the early 1890's. The lower photograph was taken in July, 1970.

Legal Description: Part of Lots 5, 6, 14, 22, 23, and 24; Block 126 OTS.



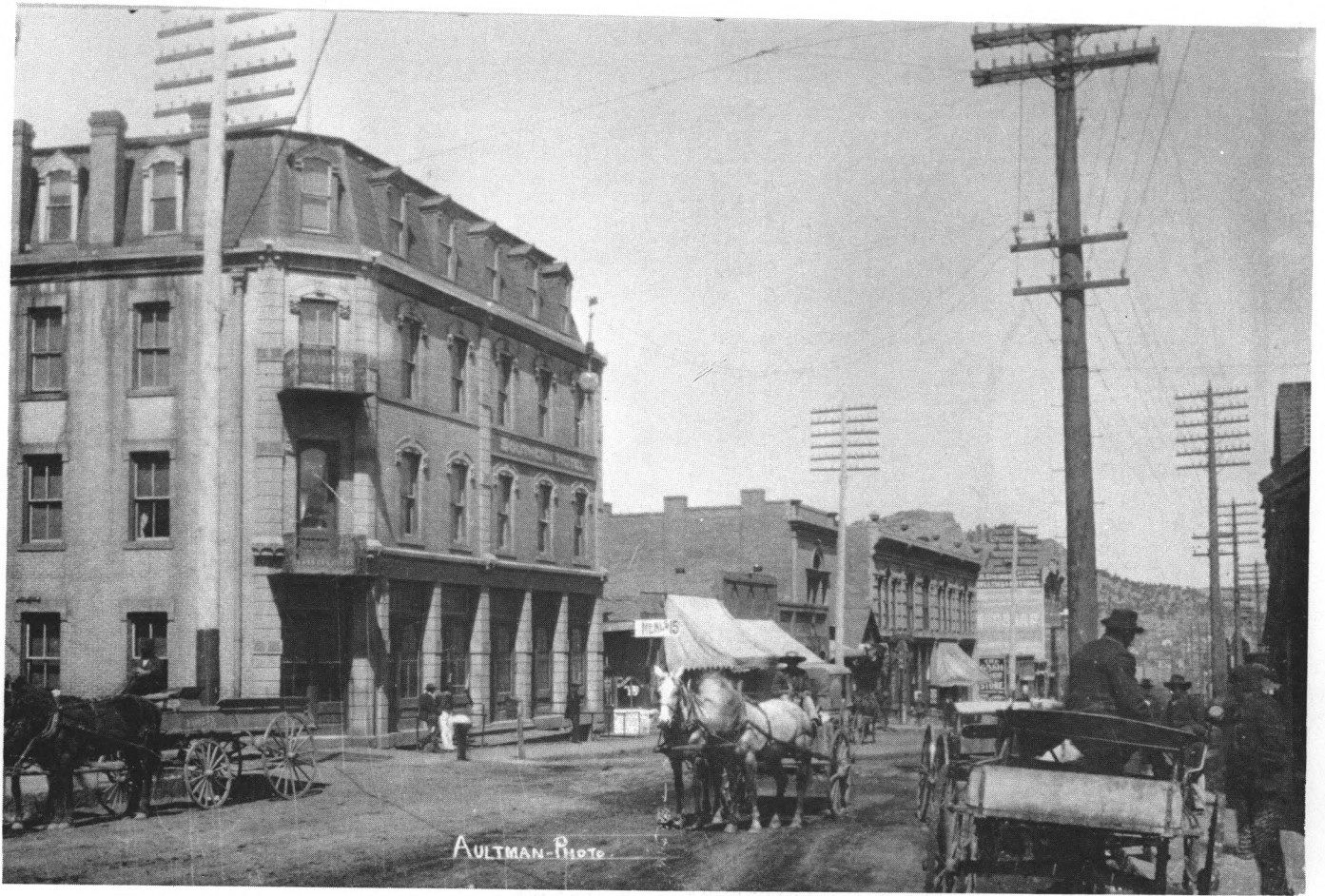
Map location #18.

Surely one of the most interesting and unique buildings in Trinidad is the old Schneider Brewery at 240 North Convent Street. This building which was completed in 1888 is in the Tuscan or Italian hill style of architecture. This structure was both well conceived and well executed and remains almost unchanged and undamaged after more than 80 years of use.

The Schneider Brewing Company played a very significant role in the development of Trinidad. Not only was it one of the major industries in town but the organization was also a large dealer in real estate and was involved in the construction of numerous buildings in the town. Also, for many years hot water was piped from this plant into the heating systems of several of the main buildings along Main and Commercial streets. Following Schneider other brewing concerns utilized this plant but now it has no such usage. School district #1 now uses part of the building for office space.

The lower photograph was taken August, 1970.

Legal Description: Lots 15 and 16; part of Lot 14; Block 126
OTS.



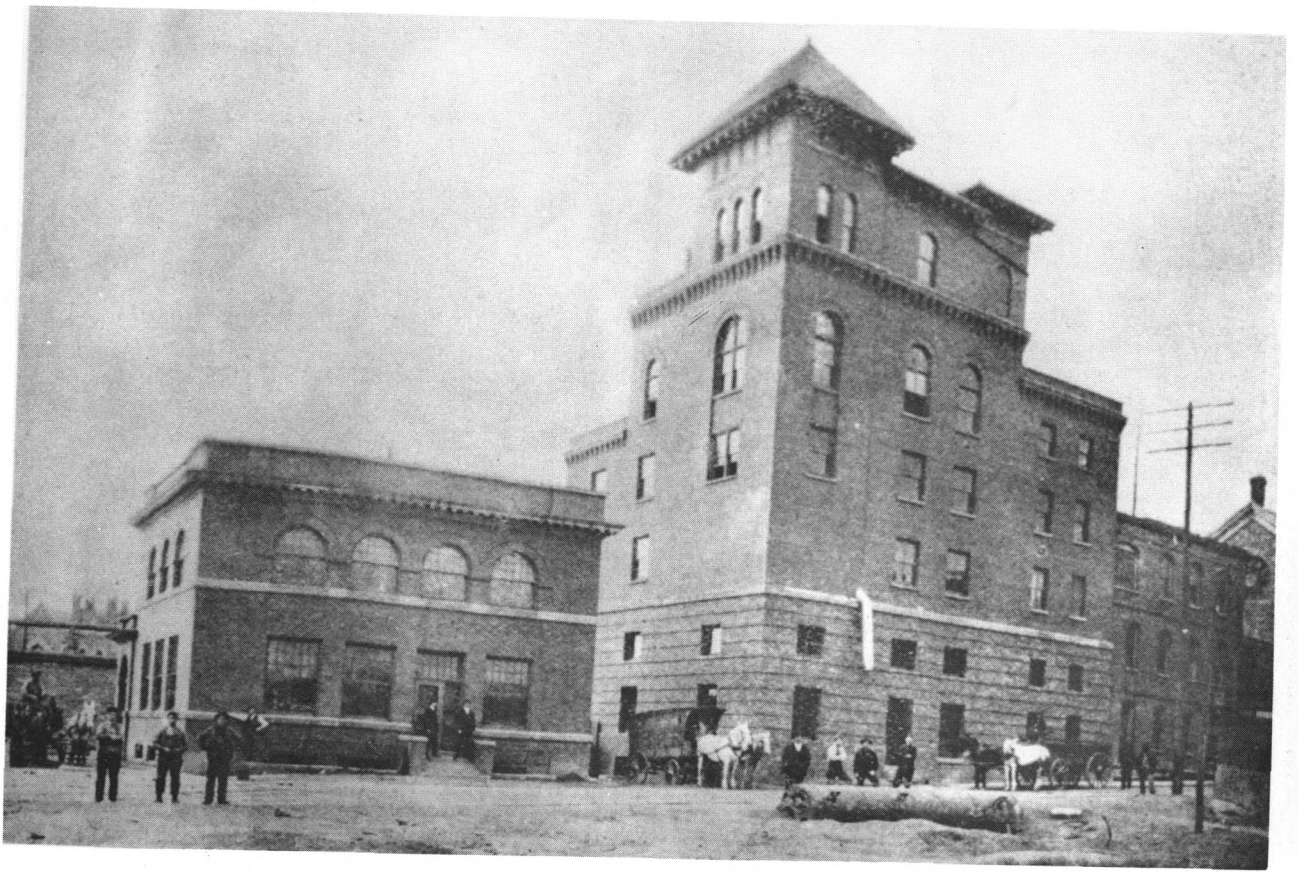
Map location #19.

The Denver Hotel, built in 1882 in the 200 block of North Commercial, displays two fine wrought-iron balconies, which in addition to the cornice add decorative touches to the facade of this otherwise rather plain building. Although the brick exterior has been plastered over, the interior of the building has not been remodeled to much extent.

The earliest recorded date on the lots is 1877 when it was listed under the name of Feliciano Dominguez. Casimiro Barela was also one of the early owners of the property. It is men such as Casimiro Barela that made early Trinidad such a dynamic and progressive town. Mr. Barela served the area as a member of the territorial legislature, served in the Colorado Constitutional Convention, was elected to the state Senate after statehood was achieved, served as a sheriff in Trinidad and was prominent in nearly every facet of civic activity in Trinidad for many years. Pietro Mauro acquired the necessary lots in 1879 and 1880 and apparantly was the owner when the hotel was built.

Both photographs were made in July of 1970. It may be interesting for the reader to compare the upper photograph on the facing page with an earlier photograph to be found on the page with the building whose map number is 25.

Legal description: North part of Lot 9; Lots 10 and 11;
East part of Lot 12; Block 126 OTS



Map location #20.

The Longnecker Building at 301 North Commercial, now housing Furu's and Family Recreation Center downstairs, and apartments upstairs, has been the site of varied businesses. Prior to 1908 there was a retail candy store there which was bought out by Abe Mason in 1908. The upstairs was also a rooming house. The 1912-13 City Directory reveals that "The Longnecker Rooms," Mrs. F. E. McHenry, Proprietor, rented for 50¢ and \$1.00 per day.

The first deed was made to Edward Baldwin in 1877. The structure was erected in 1893 when the property was owned by Daniel L. Taylor. Longnecker acquired the property in July, 1902.

Four splendid oriels decorate the top and sides of the two-story edifice.

The upper photograph was taken about 1910. The lower photograph was taken in July, 1970.

Legal Description: Part of Lot 1; Block 130 OTS.



Map location #21.

Built by Delos A. Chappell, President of the Trinidad Waterworks, in 1879, this one-story stone structure is the second oldest building in this series and is surely one of the most charming. (The oldest building we have listed is the Baca House which was built in 1869.) The stonemason who actually built the Waterworks was Charles Innes and he was a very fine and prolific artisan. Other Trinidad structures on which he was the primary stonemason include Chappell's home (Mullare Funeral Home), Holy Trinity Catholic Church, the Zion Lutheran Church and the Poitrey Block (The Trinidad National Bank Building).

Renovation and enlargement of the system was undertaken in 1890. At this time the gravity system was adopted, but the original plant was retained for emergency use. At that time a new reservoir was built and the Purgatoire River was tapped about fifteen miles west of Trinidad.

The upper photograph was taken in the period from 1870 to 1875. The lower photograph was taken in August, 1970.



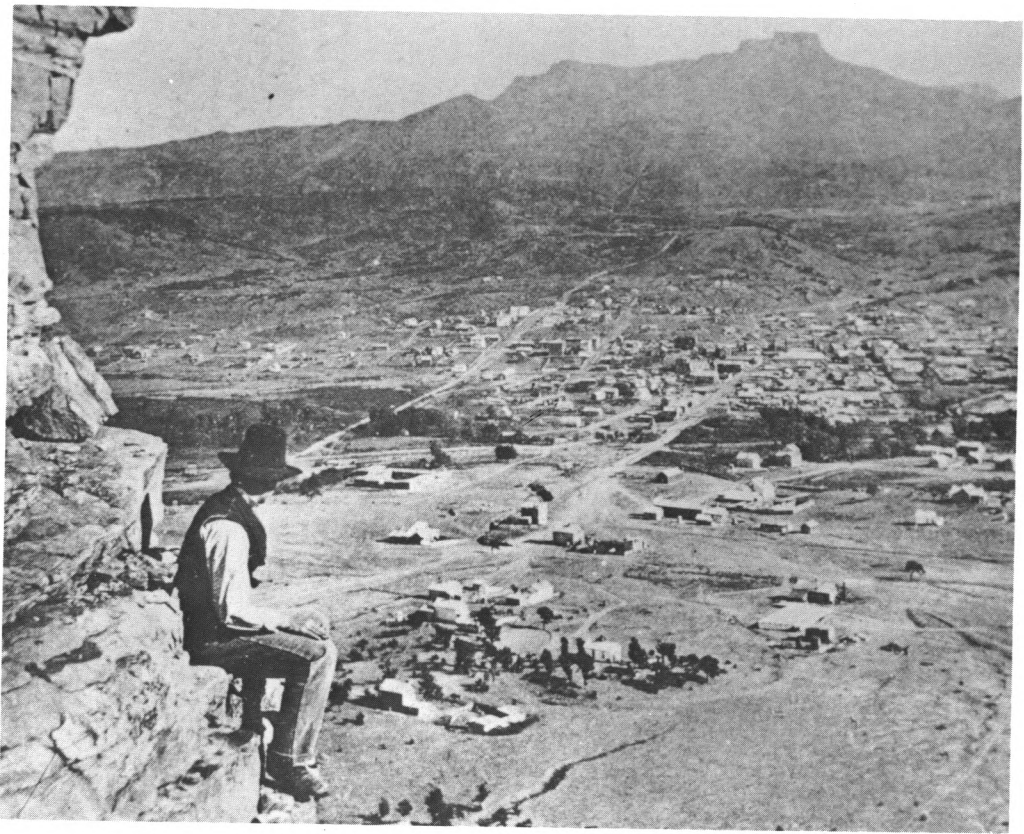
Map location #22.

The old Trinidad Hotel at 421 North Commercial is built of brick with stone facing. The facade is in the Renaissance style with interesting iron grill work containing the upper balconies. As one may note in the lower photograph a part of the upper balcony railing is now missing.

The property evidently first belonged to Maria D. C. Baca but it is uncertain who owned the property at the time of construction, which was 1900. In those lands which lie outside the original townsite and which are designated as Baca Lands we find the legal records are extremely hazy and confusing and makes accurate research a near impossibility.

The early photograph is dated about 1908 and the later one July, 1970.

Legal Description: Part of Lot 7; 37 feet on Commercial St. in Baca Lands.



Map location #23.

The old Adelphia Hotel occupies a site interesting because it was once a part of the River Baca Lands. In 1882 the land was sold by Aaron Rosenwald to H. Brownlee. Abstracts indicate that I. H. Rapp may have been the owner of the location at the time the hotel was built.

The two-story brick is in modified Romanesque style.

The date of the lower photograph is July, 1970.

Legal Description: Part of Lot 9 on North Commercial; 20 feet of River Baca Lands.

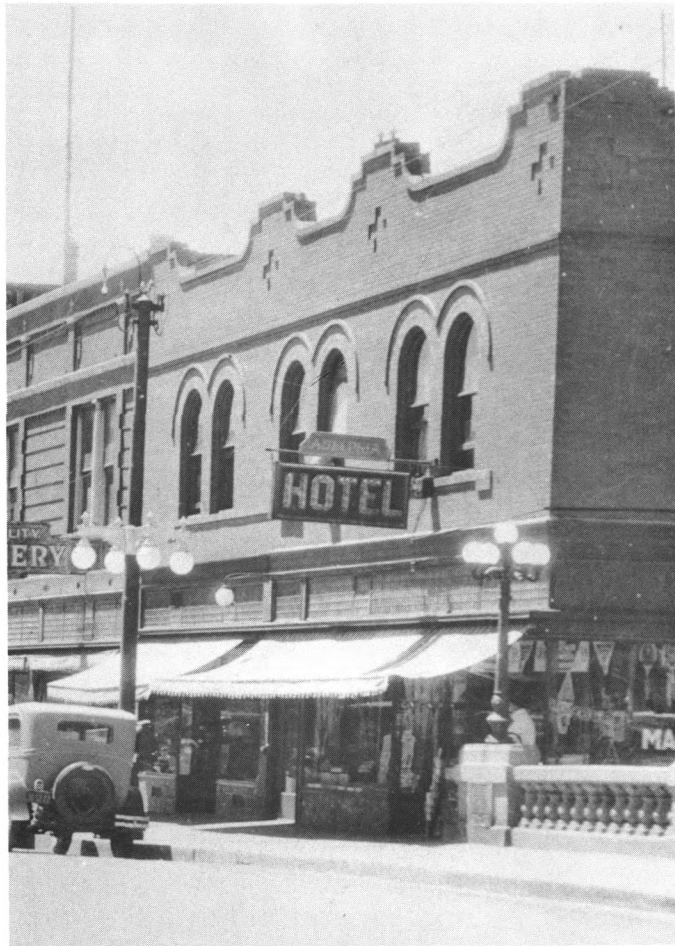


Map location #24.

The Quilich Building, a rather large two-story building of brick with a small amount of sandstone facing, at 404 North Commercial, was constructed in 1890 on a plot of the Baca Lands. When compared with most of the other buildings in Trinidad which date from that era the Quilich Building is rather simple---almost austere.

The upper photograph was taken about 1910. The lower photograph was taken in July, 1970.

Legal Description: Parcel land being part Baca Lands.



Map location #25.

The Building which the fire department occupies was built in 1895 on a lot purchased in 1886 by the city from Emma Rifenburg for \$1200.

The fire department changed from a volunteer squad to a department maintained by the city in 1891. The construction of the building to house the fire department followed this change in status. In 1895 there were five firemen in the department: Sid King, J.A. Richardson, Robert Daugherty, W. J. Murray and J. D. Carter. Mr. L. H. Roberts was the first fire chief of the new city department.

This narrow two-story building constructed of brick and stone has several connections with Trinidad's past that make it one of the most historically significant and exciting buildings in the City. Not only did this diminutive building once serve as City Hall but also as a jail. The old jail is a catacomb-like affair in the basement of the building. Much of the jail, its locks and facilities remain intact under this charming little building which is soon scheduled to be abandoned as a fire station.

The lower photograph was taken in July of 1970.

Legal Description: Lot 2; Block 125 OTS.

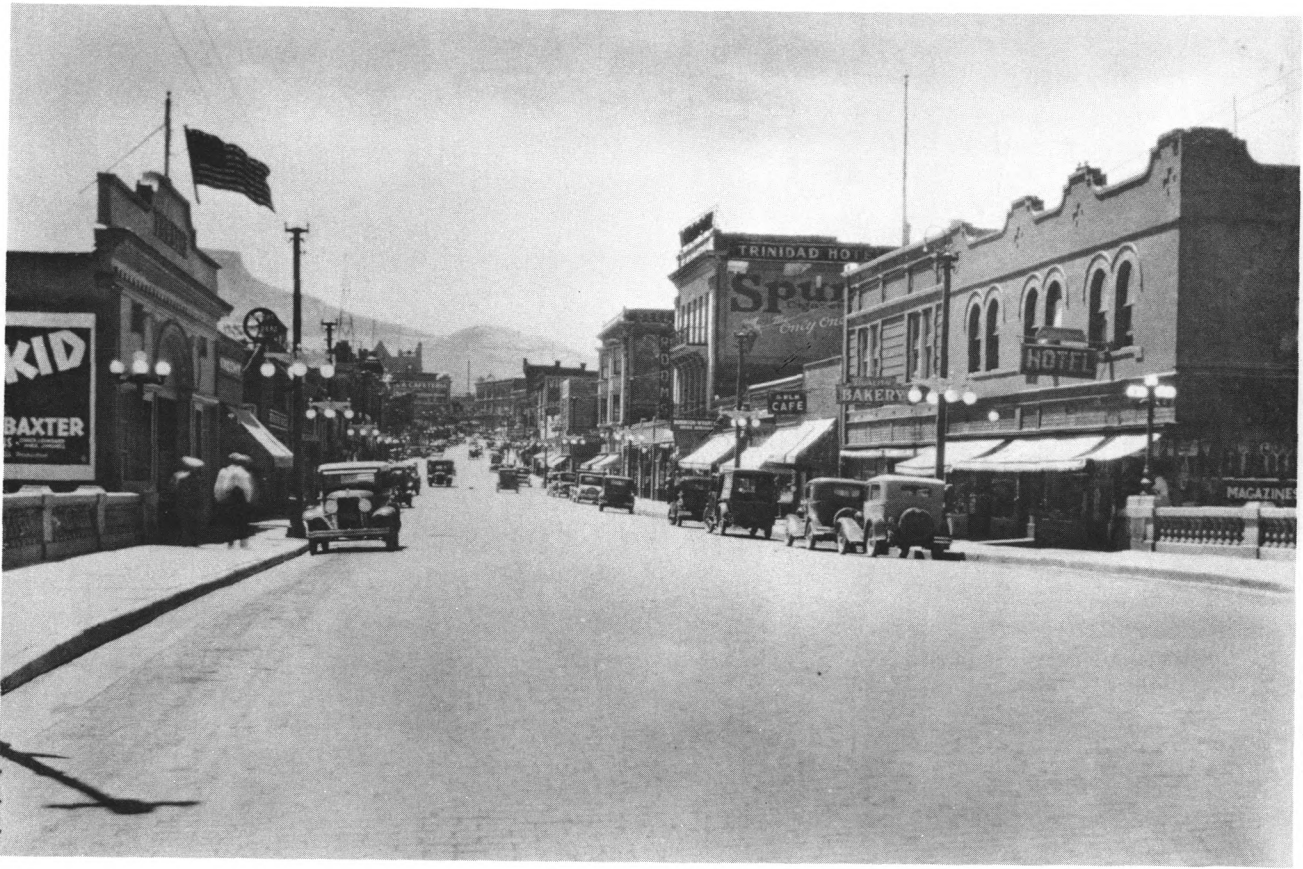


Map location #26.

Built in 1888, the present Trinidad Industrial Bank building was formerly the Sipe building. Situated at 300 North Commercial, the site has been owned by several business establishments. In 1904 it was the property of the First National Bank. In 1920 it was bought by the Trinidad Creamery Company, but not used by the Creamery itself. Deeds changed hands four more times from 1920 until 1950, when the location became the offices of the Frontier Power Company. This company held the property until 1966, when the present banking establishment purchased and subsequently remodeled the place.

The early photograph, taken about 1915, indicates the nature of some of the businesses by which the building was occupied. The recent photograph, which was taken in August, 1970, shows the building after wind had torn down one section of the aluminum siding that conceals the original walls and drastically alters the character of the building.

Legal Description: Center part of Lot 1; Lot 2; Block 125 OTS.



Map location #27.

This building has a series of very illustrious owners who played significant roles in the development of Trinidad, the surrounding area and even had wide impact on the entire Colorado Territory and later the state of Colorado. The original deed to this lot at 234 North Commercial was held by the vigorous entrepreneur Maurice Wise from 1881 to 1883 at which time he sold it to the politically powerful Casimiro Barela. Senator Barela was the owner when the building was constructed in 1883. Dr. Michael Beshoar first leased the building but it was later acquired by his family who held it for many years. Dr. Beshoar, along with his many medical and civic activities, was the founder of Trinidad's first daily paper, the Daily Advertiser, in 1879 and he used space in this building for his press.

One architectural detail worth noting on this quaint little Victorian building is the ornate tin cornice.

The upper photograph taken in 1915 depicts preparations for a parade on Main Street. The lower photograph was taken in July, 1970.

Legal Description: South part of Lot 3; part of Lot 4; Block 124 OTS.



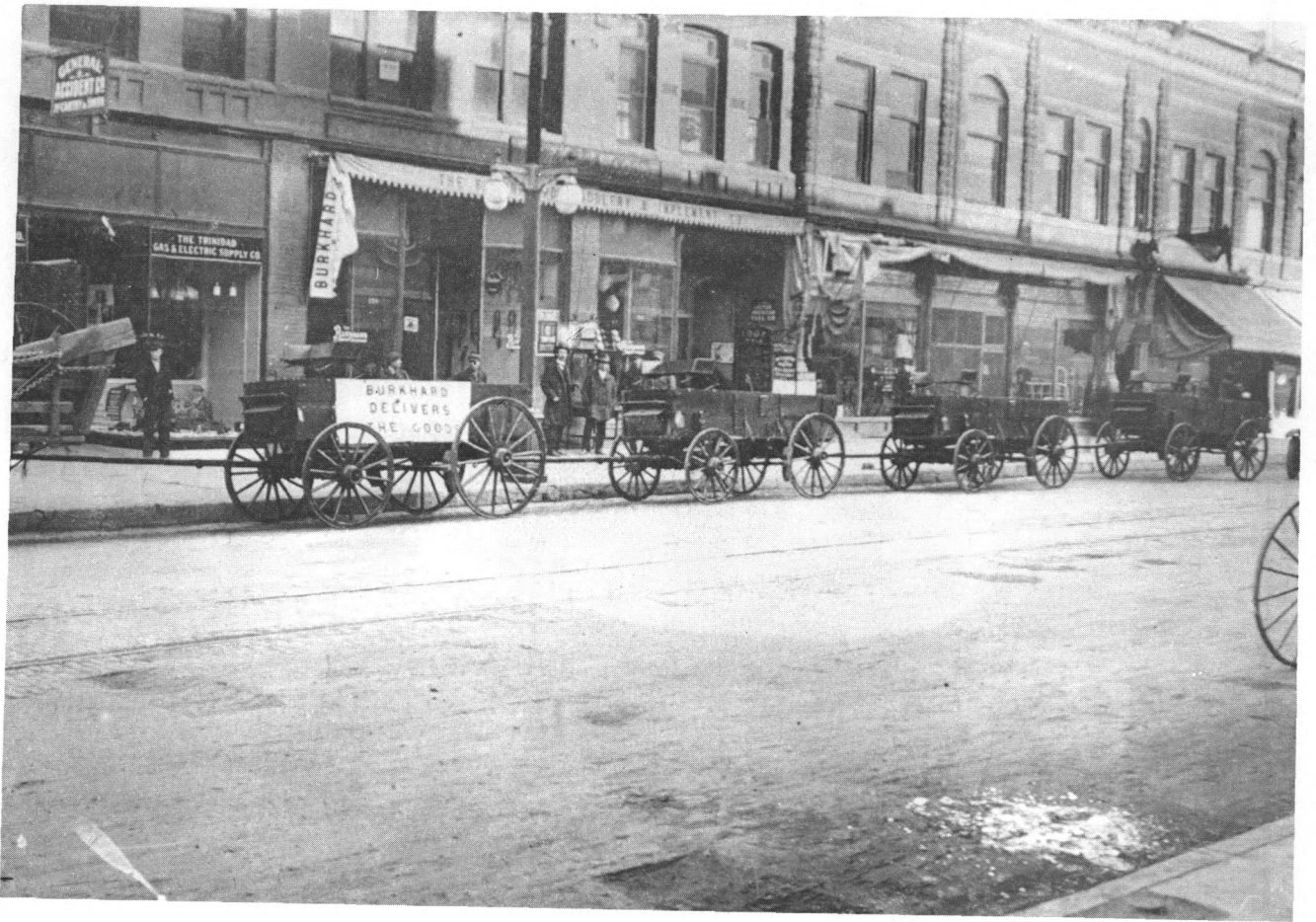
Map location #28.

The First Presbyterian Church at 224 North Commercial acquired the lot for their building in 1887 from the city. The church was not built until 1902, however. The architect was the Rev. Theodore S. Hawley. He had a degree in architecture from Carthage College, Ill., and had previously designed and supervised the construction of the Post Office building in Topeka, Kansas in 1879.

The style is Gothic adaptation built on a rusticated Renaissance base. As the early photograph shows, the church at first had crinolated towers.

The early photograph was taken in 1905. The later one was taken in July, 1970.

Legal Description: North 25.8 feet of Lot 1; all of Lot 2; Block 124 OTS.



Map location #29.

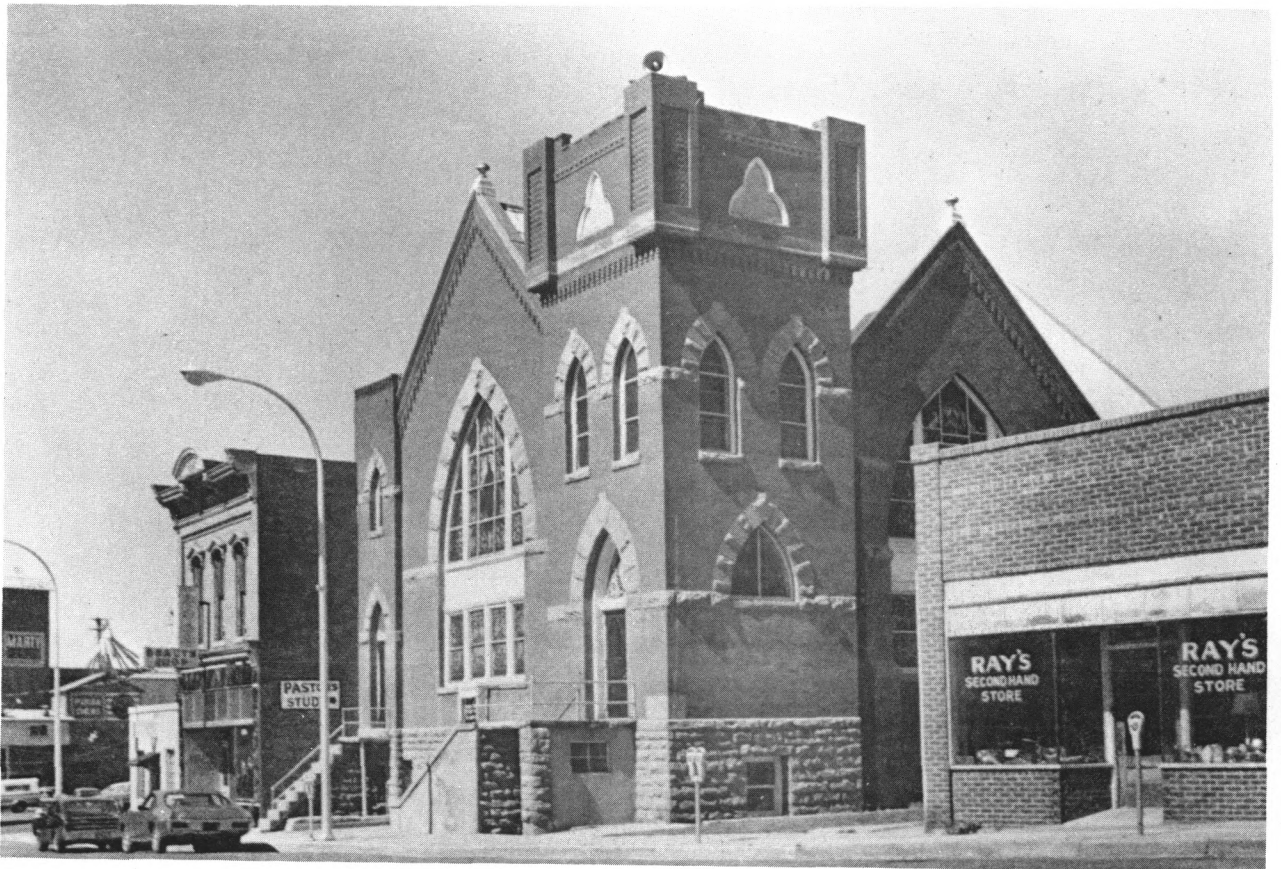
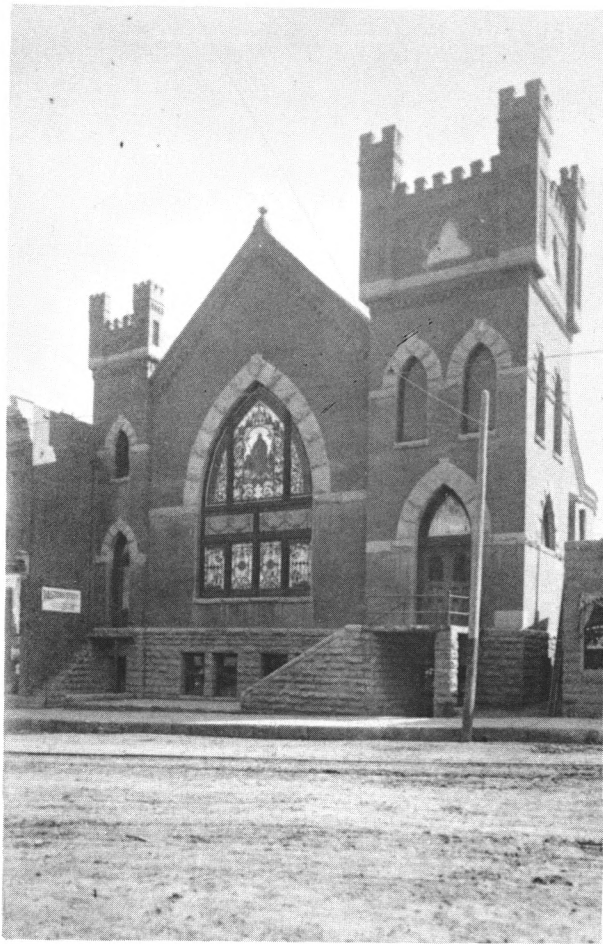
The Sherman Building, 210 North Commercial, was built in 1885 to house a wholesale and retail grocery business.

The two-story brick building provides an example of late Victorian architecture. Cast iron columns in the Chicago style add interest to the structure.

The original owner was Laura M. Pearson who acquired a deed from the city in March, 1879. She sold the property to Frank Bloom in October of the same year. The First National Bank acquired the property next and was the owner at the time of construction.

The year 1905 is the approximate date of the upper picture. The lower one was taken in July, 1970.

Legal Description: Center 42.8 feet of Lot 1; Block 124 OTS.



Map location #30.

The Saddlerock Building is another instance of business quarters still being used as they were used originally. The place housed a hotel, bar and restaurant back in 1904 after it was built and does so today.

Original lot owner and owner at the time of construction were P. J. Peters and Charlie Niccoli, respectively.

The Saddlerock contains many examples of elements borrowed from various architectural styles and combined in a rather pleasing fashion.

The upper photograph shows some of the west side of North Commercial to Main Street. One sees that the picture was taken in the days when wooden Indians often scanned the horizon from in front of the local cigar stores. The lower photograph is dated July, 1970.

Legal Description: Lots 9 and 10; Block 115 OTS.



Map location #31.

The Toltec Hotel in the 100 block of North Commercial is an excellent example of a Victorian adaptation of the Tudor style.

The earliest date concerning the lot is 1878 when the site was sold at a sheriff's sale to the First National Bank by R. L. Wooton, Jr., who happened to be sheriff at that time. In 1883 J. O. Packer acquired the lot from the city of Trinidad, and he was the owner when the Hotel was built in 1910-1911.

The F. E. Edbrooke Architectural Company, which also built the Tabor Opera House Block in Denver, superintended the construction.

The upper photograph shows North Commercial Street in the first half of the 1880's. The lower photograph is dated August, 1970.

Legal Description: North 60 feet of Lot 6; Lot 7; Lot 8; Block 115 OTS.

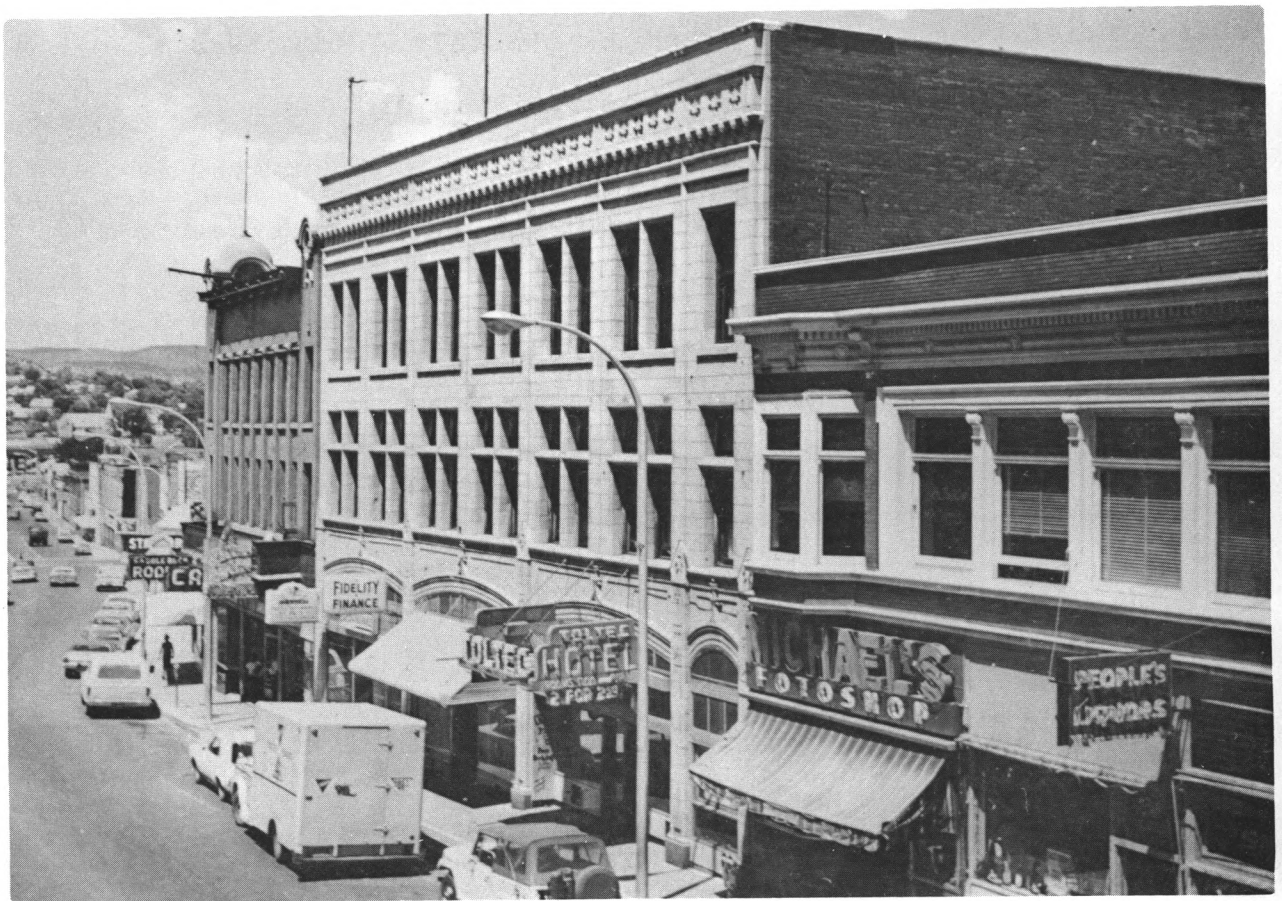


Map Location #32.

The location which the McCormick Building occupies was owned briefly by David W. McCormick in 1878. From 1883 to 1901 it was owned by the enterprising Trinidad Businessman John O. Packer who then sold it back to David McCormick. It was evidently during the time that Packer owned the property that the basic building which still stands was constructed. Evidence indicates it was probably built in 1889. However, the oriels were added after David McCormick reacquired the building and presumably the property came to be called the McCormick Building at that time.

The early photograph on the facing page was taken in 1909 and the later one in July 1970.

Legal Description: Lot 7; Block 115 OTS.



Map location #33.

Catching the eye is the arrangement of flat arches and Romanesque arches on this two-story brick edifice.

Matthew Lynch was the original owner of the lot, the date on the deed being 1877. The owner in 1885 during the period of construction of the building was James Lynch.

One of the many subsequent owners of the property was I. H. Rapp, the architect, who became co-owner with W. M. Rapp in 1909.

The upper photograph, taken about 1915, shows a parade being formed. The lower photograph was taken in July, 1970.

Legal Description: South 150 feet of Lot 3; South 150 feet of East 25.5 feet more or less of Lot 4; Block 115 OTS.



Map location #34.

Frank and Sarah Bloom are listed as the original owners of this property, purchasing the land in 1889 and building in 1890. The property remained in their names until 1930 when it was bought by George Joseph. During the time he owned the property, Joseph occupied the apartment upstairs. In the 1930's the first floor was occupied by Western Auto Stores and in the 1940's by Sweetbriar. In the 1960's it became Lanny's Supermarket and remained so until 1970.

The engaged stone columns add an eye-appealing touch to this building. Some recent work on the building has rather seriously marred its beauty.

Legal Description: Part of Lot 1; Block 115 OTS.



Map location #35.

Twenty-seven transactions are listed for lots 1 and 2, dating from 1878 when the first deed was made to Harriet E. Bloom for lot 1 and to Edward S. Langfesty for lot 2, until 1904. The current building was not constructed until 1902 when lot 1 was owned by Real Estate Insurance Company.

Built as a telephone building, it served that purpose until the 1950's. The Chamber of Commerce also used the building for a short time.

The lower photograph is dated July, 1970.

Legal Description: Part of Lots 1 and 2; Block 116 OTS.



Map location #36.

The interesting and well proportioned Chappell house was built in 1883 on a lot once owned by the very prominent early cattleman Frank Bloom. Delos A. Chappell, the city engineer who installed the city waterworks, also set up his own private water filtration system in the third story of this spacious house. Chappell later relocated in Denver and again became quite prominent and moved in Denver's exclusive and elite social circles. For many years his Denver home housed the Denver Museum of Native Arts but even that has now fallen to the bull dozers and serves as a parking lot.

After Chappell moved to Denver, his Trinidad home was acquired and occupied by Dr. John Espey.

It is interesting to note that in the older photograph the home sat at or slightly below street level while it now sits well above the existing street level. The level of the main streets of Trinidad have, over the years, been changed quite drastically. In some places Main Street has received as much as five or six feet of fill while in other areas it has been lowered as much as four or five feet.

The lower photograph is dated July, 1970.

Legal Description: Part of Lot 1; Block 117 OTS.



Map location #37.

A parson by profession and a stonemason by trade, the Reverend Stevens also caught the spirit of Victorian exuberance when he designed the stone church built to replace the original adobe. According to the 1961 Church Yearbook, Rev. Stevens helped hew the stones and did most of the building. (Older members recall that the interior did not include a baptismal; baptismal services were held in the Purgatoire near where the Linden Bridge now stands.) This striking church was built on land donated by Dr. Tom E. Owen who was another of Trinidad's outstanding early residents.

The church that "bid fair", as it was said, flourished in Rev. Steven's stone edifice until 1922 when the congregation moved to a new church. The building was then used for a time by the Spanish-speaking Presbyterians and was called the Second Presbyterian Church. The building is now used only as a warehouse.

The original owner of the lot was S. T. Brown who sold to Dr. Owen in 1881. The lot passed through the hands of several others until 1915 when Mary E. Owen deeded the land to the Christian Church (the denomination which had built the church).

Legal Description: Northwest corner of Lot 3; Block 97 OTS.



Map location #38.

Frank Bloom, the original owner of the lot, built the Bloom House in 1882 for the family's residence.

During the late 1930's and part of the 1940's, the home was a rooming house operated by Mrs. Kitty Hemelspach.

Built in the French Victorian style, the mansion with its multitude of details is well-described in the pamphlet Bloom House and Baca House, published by the Historical Society of Colorado.

The Bloom's towering mansion, patterned after a midwestern Victorian house they had admired, was built of brick with native Trinidad sandstone used for the trimming. The exterior of the building was influenced by French architecture, then rare in the frontier West of the 1880's. This is particularly exemplified in the metal-covered mansard roof The cornices and rosettes are made of plaster, and ornamental woodwork marks the porch on three sides of the house.

Recognized for the excellence of the Victorian workmanship and style, the mansion, which now belongs to the State Historical Society of Colorado, is open as a museum.

The photograph was taken in 1963.



Map location numbers 39 and 40.

Also owned and maintained by the State Historical Society of Colorado are the Baca House and Pioneer Museum.

The plain two-story adobe Baca House was built in 1869 by John S. Hough and was acquired by Felipe Baca the following year. Felipe Baca lived there until his death in 1874 and other members of Baca's family continued to live in the house until 1921.

Stretching behind the Baca House is the long one-story adobe building which housed Felipe Baca's hired personnel and their families. This building now houses the charming Pioneer Museum.

More detailed information about the Bloom House, Baca House and Pioneer Museum may be obtained from the Historical Society of Colorado and from the pamphlet, Bloom House and Baca House, Trinidad, Colorado, published by the Society.

Photographs on the facing page are dated August, 1970.



Map location #41.

"Congregation Aaron . . . is a pioneer, historic and unique." This observation from the Statement of Appreciation from the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to Congregation Aaron is well-founded in facts. The founders were of the first to wind across the pass to the slopes on which Trinidad would be built. In the original membership were people who contributed to the building of the city and of the state. The membership included the following: S. Jaffa, S.H. Jaffa, S. Sanders, H. Biernbaum D. Gottlieb, H. Jaffa, A. Rosenwald, J. Sanders, and H. Moses. Leopold Freudenthal, was the Rabbi in 1889 when the synagogue was built and remained as Rabbi until 1916.

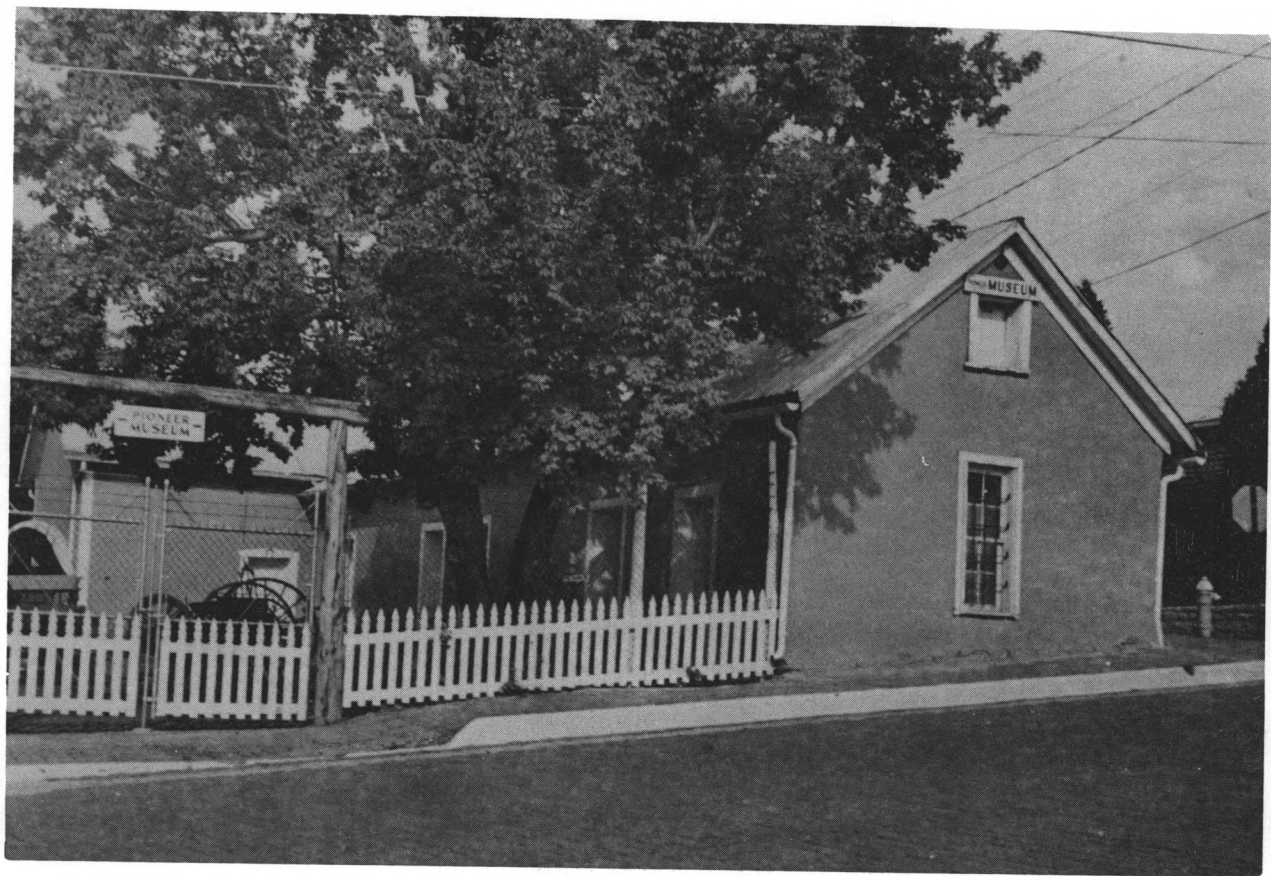
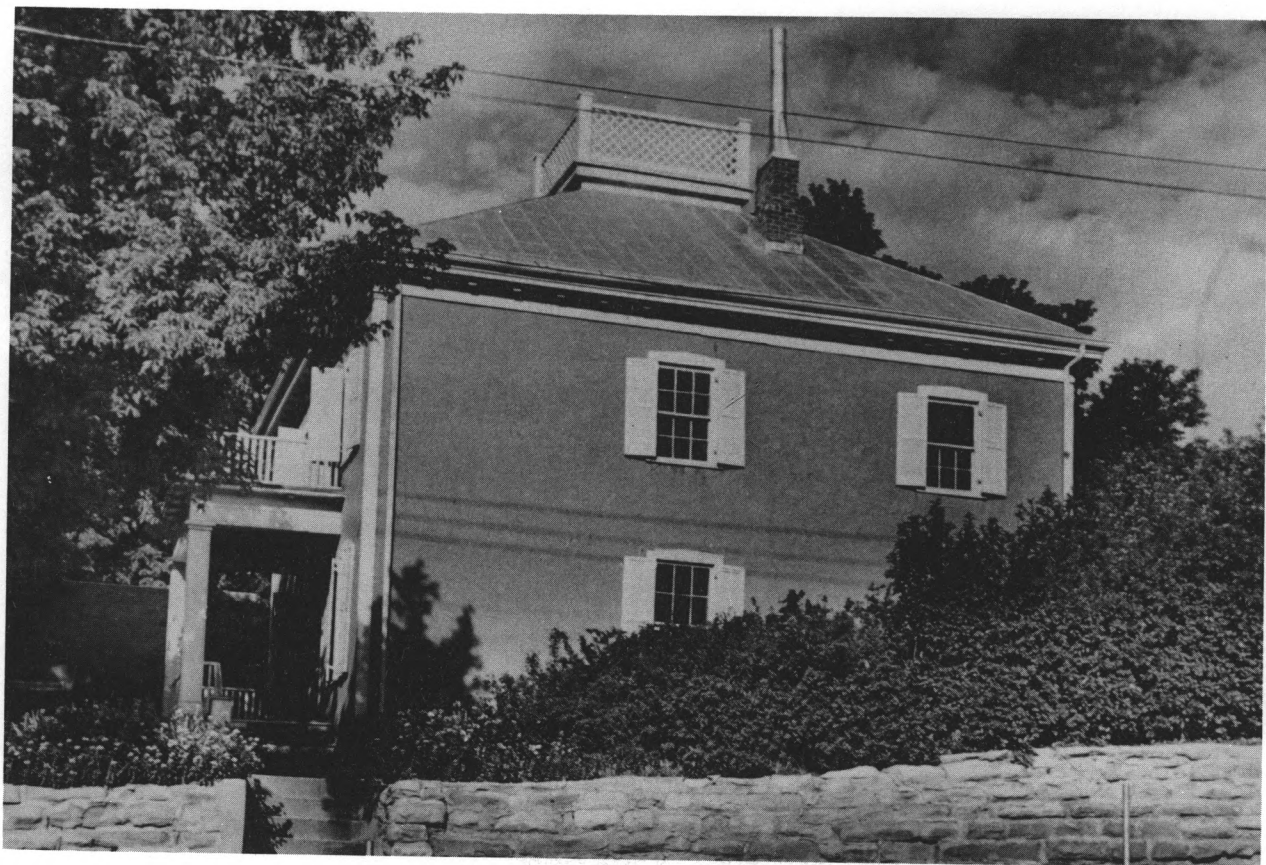
Some members provide direct links to the past. Leo Gottlieb, Albert Moses and the late Gilbert Sanders are sons of the founding fathers. As children, Albert Moses and Leo Gottlieb attended the cornerstone laying in 1889.

J. H. Rapp superintended the building of the Synagogue. The eclecticism of the Victorian age is illustrated in the mixture of elements of style. There are Moslem minarets, a German tower, and Romanesque Gothic windows. The original stained glass windows are still intact.

The interior contains the hand-carved pulpit and the organ which were brought to Temple Aaron by wagon train.

The photograph is a recent one.

Legal Description: Northeast corner of Lot 4; Block 53; 90 feet running thence westwardly; South line at Third Street.



Map location #42.

Most interesting in terms of Victorian architecture is the tin cornice which adorns this plain, straight-forward three-story brick edifice designed by Architect John Conkie. It is uncertain whether it was built in 1903 or in 1906.

The early photograph taken some time between the years 1903 and 1912, indicates the Colorado Building was originally used for offices and as a dry goods store. Perhaps the number of prams displayed in the second floor windows indicates the optimism of the era and an anticipated population explosion in the city.

Due to conflicting evidence about the date of construction, it is uncertain who the owner was when this structure at 150 East Main was built.

The lower photograph was taken in July, 1970.

Legal Description: Lot 2; East 110 feet of Lot 3; Block 100 OTS.



Map location #43.

The site of the S. H. Kress business and the adjacent Colorado Building provide a study in contrasts, the first being very ornate, the second relatively simple. It is the multitude of details from different periods in this three-story brick built in 1911 which again reveal the Victorian exuberance. Although rather ornate, in relationship to the scale of the building, the details are not overdone. Worth mentioning are the Ionic capitals and the decorative Romanesque arches.

The city issued the deed to Edward Mitchell for this location in 1878 at the same time it deeded him the site for the Colorado Building. The owner at the time of construction was Trinidad Masonic Temple Association, which still retains the two upper floors while leasing the lower floor to businesses.

The original photograph was made some time after 1912. The later photograph is dated August, 1970.

Legal Description: Part of Lot 3; Block 100 OTS.



Map location #44.

On the property originally owned by the First National Bank, the present structure was built in 1880 in a rather simple, unaffected style. Three Romanesque arches above the wider windows constitute the most obvious decorative touch.

Built of brick, the two-story edifice is currently used for offices and shops.

The upper photograph made looking west on Main Street was taken in the period between 1903 and 1913. The lower photograph is dated July, 1970.

Legal Description: Lot 4; Block 100 OTS.



Map location #45.

David Gottlieb recorded the deed to the lot at 115 East Main in 1877 and began construction of a building. In the April 20, 1930 issue of the Chronicle-News, Mr. Gottlieb is quoted as saying, "I sold the property in 1888 for \$29,000, or \$1000 per front foot, which in 1874 I had purchased for \$1,700." Evidently construction on the existing building began about the time S. C. Snyder acquired the land in 1888. The property which originally housed the Post Hardware Company later became the Branson-Griswold Hardware Store.

Mrs. Alice G. Plested became the owner of the property in 1892, and the building is still owned by the Plested family and is commonly referred to as the Plested Building.

The architectural style is quite consistently Romanesque. The scale of the building is considered to be quite good. The rhythm of movement and sensitivity in the selection of details lend to an elegant and graceful appearance.

Close inspection of the lower photograph reveals a woman's face carved in the stone just above the lower right pillar. The story is that the contractor fell in love with a local madam. He carved her face in the stone, and without consulting anyone, slipped the stone into place as a tribute to her.

In the upper picture part of the Plested Building can be seen to the right of the frame Canterbury store. The lower photograph was taken in August, 1970.

Legal Description: Lot 5; Block 100 OTS.



Map location #46.

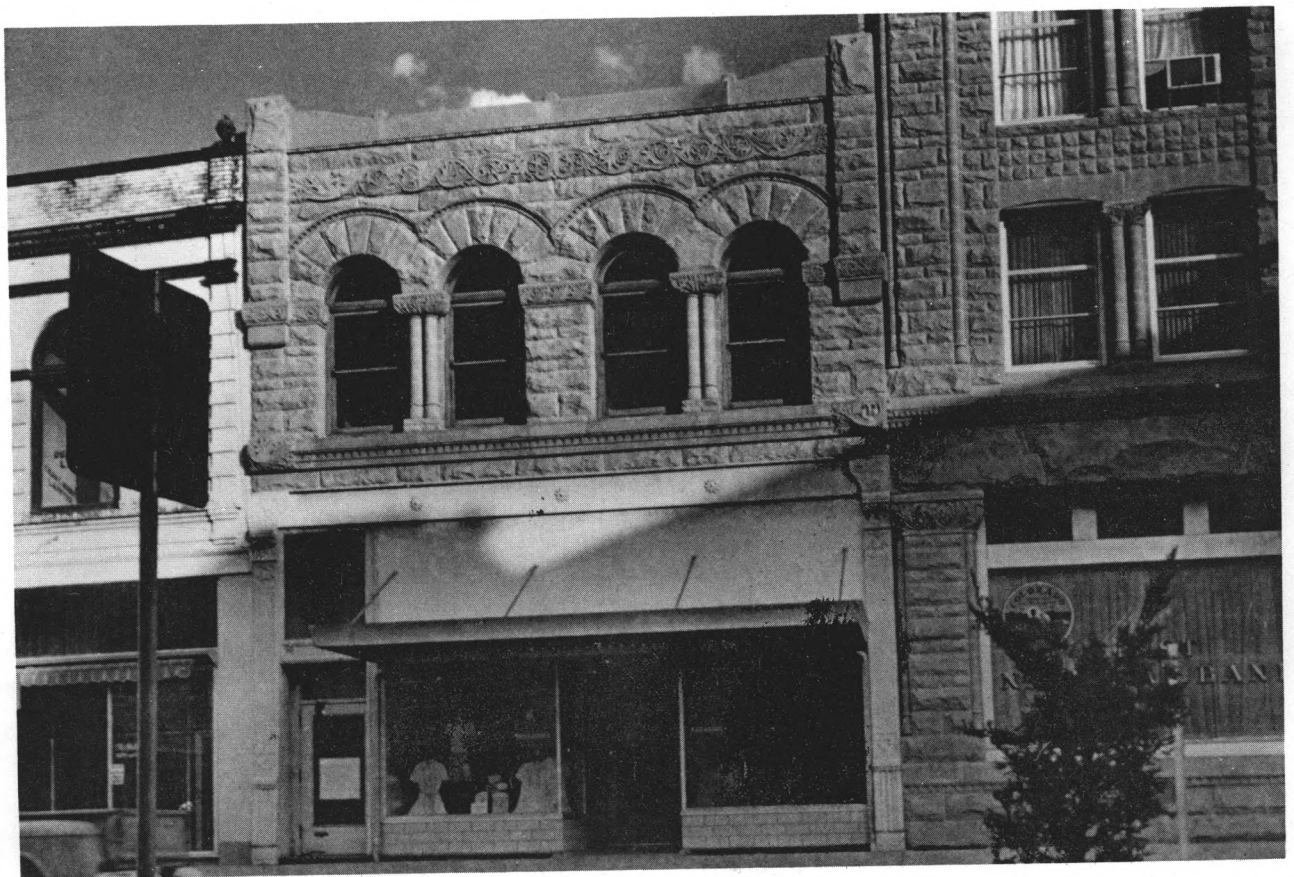
The tallest edifice in the downtown area, the First National Bank Building, was erected in 1892. At this time it was owned by Aaron and Ed Rosenwold and the First National Bank.

There is an attractive placement of Roman arches of different sizes on the front of this Victorian Romanesque stone building. The original picture, probably taken in the 1890's, show a balustrade on the roof, intended no doubt, to balance the gable on the left. There is an intricate design in the peak of the gable that is repeated at the base of the arches.

The building stone was supplied by the quarries of James Radford and T. D. Mitchell. These two quarries often worked together in providing stone for building projects.

The lower photograph was taken in July, 1970.

Legal Description: Lots 6 and 7; Block 100 OTS.



Map location #47.

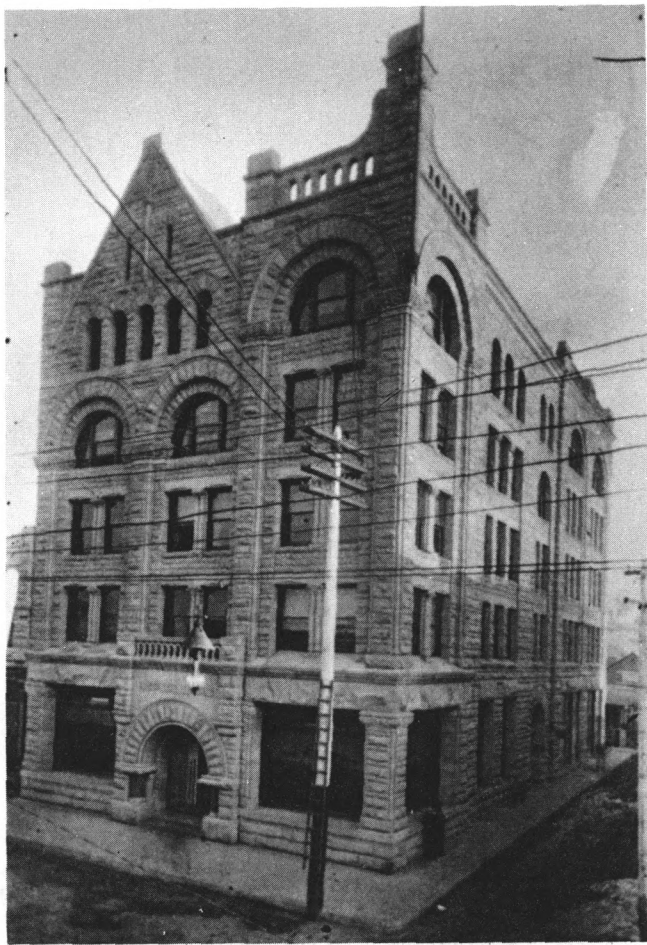
The Trinidad Opera House, also called the Jaffa Opera House, is located at 100 West Main. The edifice was raised in 1883 and was built by Henry Jaffa and Sullivan Jaffa who were joint owners with Samuel Jaffa.

As an opera house, the building excited interest. The Trinidad Trade Review for February 9, 1889, published a pen and ink sketch of the interior of the house.

The building materials are adobe with brick and stone facing. This building contains some of the finest incised sandstone to be found in the city. We are most fortunate that such a handsome structure as this sits at the corner of Trinidad's most conspicuous intersection. In general we may say the style of the Opera Block is typical of the era.

The upper picture is dated prior to 1915 while the lower one is dated August, 1970.

Legal Description: Lot 1; Block 101 OTS.



Map location #48.

The earliest known date of construction for the three segments of the Bell Block is 1883 for the center portion. There is no date available for the right portion. The part identified in the picture as Walker's Furniture was erected in 1888.

Surely the most impressive section of the city in terms of architecture includes the Bell Block, the Franch Block, and the Opera House Block. These three major units were all constructed during the 1880's and illustrate very well the efforts of the architects and builders of that time to plan buildings that were not only well-built, but also compatible in proportion and character to the other buildings around them. They were sensitive to the total effect created by accumulations of buildings which were in harmony with each other. That they were also concerned with masterful execution of fine details is indicated in the beautifully incised and carved stones in these buildings.

The central segment, if not all three units, was built by and bears the name of E. S. Bell who was a prominent business man in Trinidad. The original lot owner, Juan Baca, was an equally prominent figure at an even earlier time and another later owner, Dan Taylor, could be added to this list of illustrious individuals associated with this excellent group of buildings.

The upper photo shows central Trinidad as it was about 1870-74. The lower photo was taken in July, 1970.

Legal Description: North 125 feet of Lots 2 and 3 excluding the West 29 1/2 feet of Lot 3; Block 101 OTS.



Map location #49.

Despite the fact that the building is called the Franch Block and bears that name together with an 1887 construction date it was not owned by the Franch's at the time it was built. Rather we find that Matthew Lynch was the original lot owner and that the very prominent early-day entrepreneur James Lynch was the actual owner at the time the building was constructed. The abstracts seem to indicate that the Franch family first acquired the property in 1907 and it remained their property until in April of this year.

The upper photograph was taken in 1867 (or possibly in 1868) at the corner of Beech and Main street. Barraclough's store was located on the southeast corner of Main and Beech. This represents the earliest photograph of Trinidad to which we have had access or of which we know. The lower photograph was made in July of 1970.

Legal description: Lot 1, Block 102 OTS



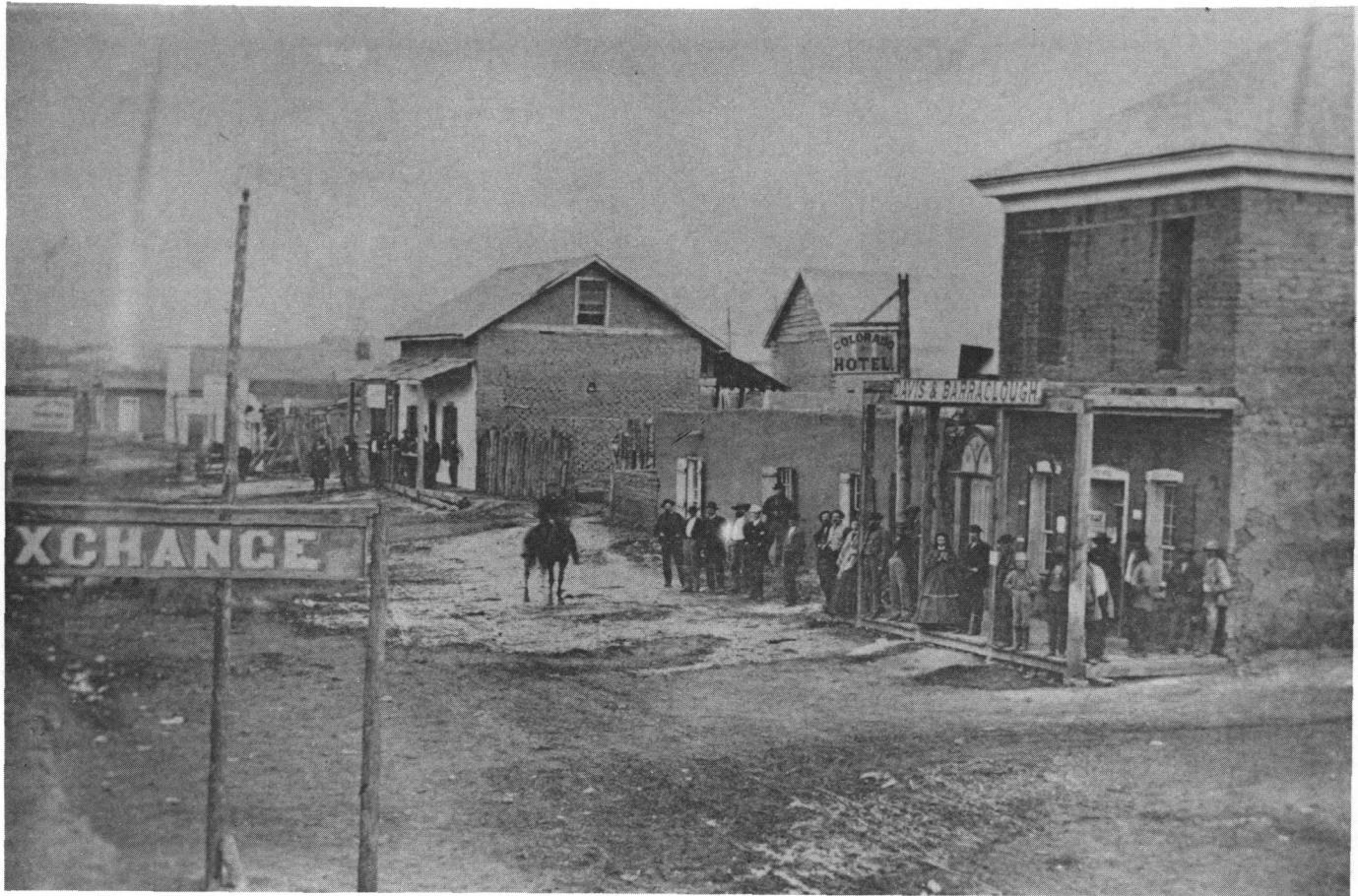
Map location #50.

Mary F. Stevens was the original owner of the lot at 530 West Main. Fifth in the list of owners, John Aiello acquired the lot in 1903, at which time the present building went up, and he held the lot until 1923.

The building itself is the typical two-story brick. At one time it sported iron roof-top grill work.

The lower photograph is dated July, 1970.

Legal Description: Lot 2, 127 feet on Main and 204 1/2 feet on Beech; Block 102 OTS.



Map location #51.

This private dwelling at the corner of Main and Beech, was built in 1904. The site was originally owned by Jose Salazar; however, J. H. Vossbeck owned the location when the house was built.

The rather simple style is straightforward and pleasant and is enhanced by the two oriels and the entrance porch and covered balcony.

The upper picture, taken looking east on West Main, is dated about 1902. The lower picture was taken July, 1970. Legal description: Northeast part of Lot 1, being the East 24 feet of the North 96 feet of Lot 1; Block 103 OTS.



Map location #52.

The rather imposing entrance to the Donnelly Building is one of the more interesting characteristics of this two-story brick Victorian structure.

The original owners of this site were Jesus Garcia and Rafael Chacon. A deed is recorded in their names in 1874. However, in 1877 Charlotte Kinnean acquired a deed to this lot from the city. I. Hague was the apparent owner of the property when the building went up in 1900.

Both pictures were taken in July, 1970. The upper picture was taken from in front of the Donnelly Building looking east from West Main. Essentially the same scene as it looked in 1902 is shown in the upper picture on the previous page.

Legal description: East 55 feet of Lot 1; Block 104 OTS.



Map location #53.

The Main Hotel was built in 1900 on a lot originally owned by Jesus Garcia and Rafael Chacon prior to the incorporation of the city. In 1877 the city gave a deed to the lot to Charlotte Kinnean who sold the lot to Jennie Henry in 1880. Jennie Henry was the owner at the time this building was constructed.

The two-story hotel is built of the brick and Trinidad sandstone combination that is so frequently found here. The interior of the building still has many of the original fixtures and features.

The upper photograph is an 1885 (approximately) view of the city and of Fisher's Peak. The lower picture was taken in July of 1970.

Legal description: West 40 feet of Lot 3; Block 104 OTS.



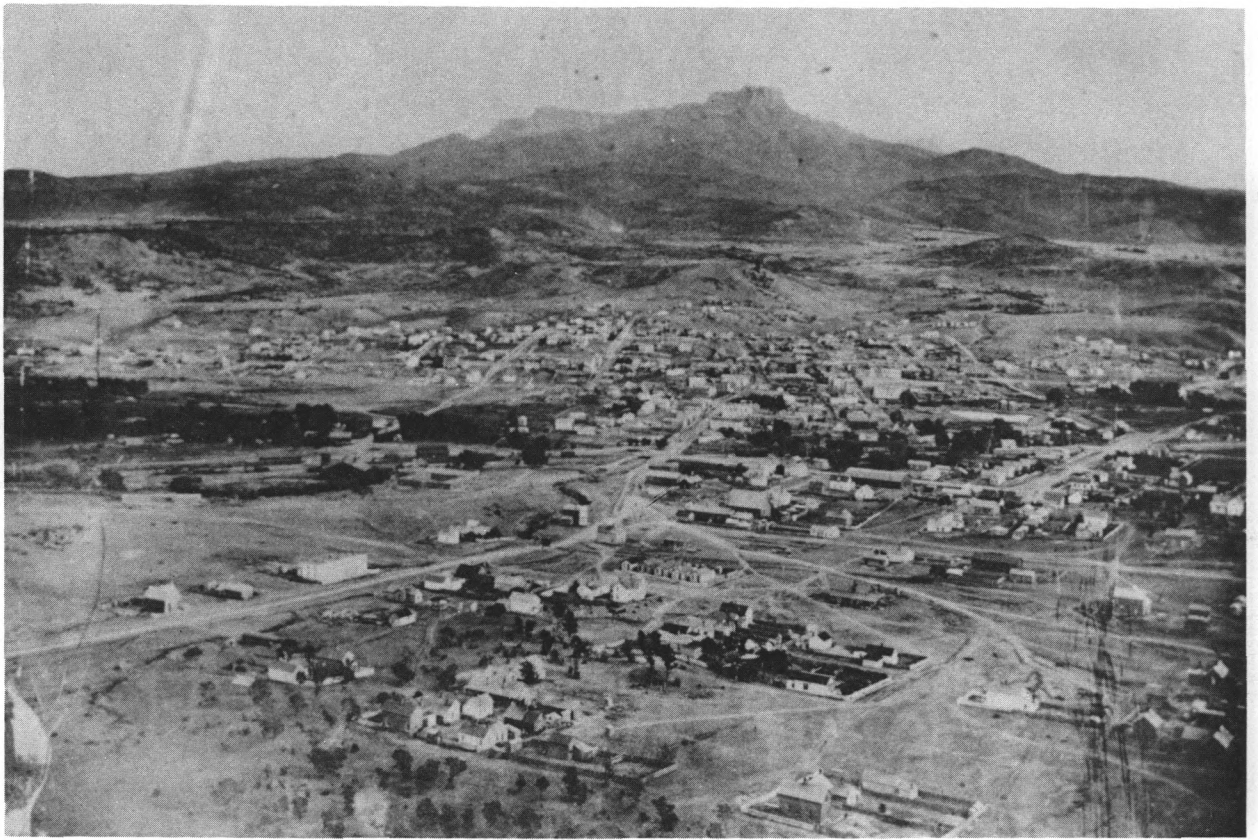
Map location #54.

Located at Main and High, the building went up in 1898, when Hans Vossbeck owned the lot. The original lot owner was Isabella Beard. Dr. Michael Beshoar acquired the lot from her in 1881 and sold it to Vossbeck in 1897.

The decorative brickwork on this building, combined with the very attractive leaded windows in the upper section of the arches, make for a rather light, almost lacy effect. The impact made by the building is indeed pleasant. Much of the interior of this building also remains intact or nearly so.

The upper photograph on the facing page is dated July, 1970, while the lower one was taken in August of 1970.

Legal Description: Northwest 28 feet of the North part of Lot 6; Block 104 OTS.



Map location #55.

Two oriels and a decorative cornice lend grace and a simple beauty to this otherwise very plain building which is now used as both a market and a dwelling.

Benito Cordova is recorded as the original owner of the lot. Following him were five other owners, including Lodge No. 17, IOOF in 1888. Ruth Lawler, the sixth in succession, acquired the property in 1893 and was the owner at the time of construction in 1900.

The upper photo of the city was taken from the heights of Simpson's rest in about 1902. The reader may find it of interest to compare this photograph with others taken from the same area at different times in Trinidad's history. The other photographs of this general view are to be found on the pages with map locations number 53 (1885), number 22 (1870-75), and number 1 (which is a recent photograph). The lower photograph is dated August, 1970.

Legal description: East 30 feet of Lot 1; Block 105 OTS.





The fifty or so Trinidad buildings shown on the preceding pages represent part of this region's last great collection of Western Victorian commercial architecture. Characteristically they display the exuberance, the spirited mixture of historical periods, and the casual disregard of the then current Eastern architectural fashions which distinguished the Victorian buildings of the Old West.

Few communities, by design or otherwise, have been able to preserve intact so many buildings of a single architectural era; for we Americans have been no great respectors of the treasures of earlier generations, preferring the "higher" culture of shiny newness. In Trinidad's case, economic depression of forty years' standing, coupled with a steadily declining population, has eliminated the need for new buildings as well as the funds with which to demolish the old. In consequence, there has been relatively little physical change in the commercial section. A fire here, a collapse there, on rare occasions an expansion, and the usual misguided concern

for ever more parking space have made the only inroads into the unique urban fabric that was Trinidad. By great good fortune, the town site itself is a worthy backdrop to this outstanding concentration of buildings; with its sloping terrain, winding brickpaved streets, narrow alleys, and unexpected vistas of mountains and mesas.

However, all this grandeur is not readily apparent to the casual eye. In truth, much of it is hidden and hard to perceive, buried, as it were, by layers of paint or grime, by automobiles, by tasteless remodeling, and by the ubiquitous blatant signs. Thus many of its citizens sense the charm and human scale of their community without being consciously aware of it; while the outsider, having no reason for exposure, seldom has the chance to grasp that charm.

Such a physical treasure could become a significant national resource---a statement about the cultural importance of the late 19th Century and the West's contribution to that culture. Future generations could have the opportunity to experience at first hand the vital and dynamic physical environment of the early cities of the Old West.

At this point in her history, Trinidad can choose from a number of different physical image alternatives---- of which three have a reasonable basis in reality. The most likely alternative, perhaps, is for the firmly entrenched Urban Renewal Authority to continue on its stated course of acquiring and demolishing the old buildings in the Central Business District.

This senseless process is based on the tenuous hope that private industry will buy and develop the cleared land, thus creating a whole new downtown. In an area of steadily declining population and a time of high costs and scarce money, there is little likelihood of creating anything except a sort of endless wasteland of parking lots. And yet we realize, with the wheels set in motion, this remains Trinidad's most likely end ---probably to be prevented only by an aroused citizenry.

A second alternative, with a great deal in its favor, is that the already tested technique of facade remodeling will continue its crippling attrition. Utilizing the slip cover technique of blotting out character and individuality, this system tends to reduce all buildings to a common denominator of sameness, to a mediocrity virtually indistinguishable from hundreds of other towns. It is uncomplicated, can be easily financed (often as a low-quality package deal along with new signs), gives the "desirable" modern image, and often gets its owner a Chamber of Commerce award for "progressiveness" or something. Next to Urban Renewal, it can have the most disastrous effect on the visual image of a community.

As a third alternative, Trinidad could conceivably espouse the cause of preservation. Simply stated, it means to preserve---through careful renovation of selected buildings---the character and spirit of 19th Century Trinidad. Its accomplishment, however, is not simple. It will require a sympathetic City Council; an interested and persevering citizenry;

a great many dollars; thoughtful and sensitive designers; cooperation of building owners and their tenants; the continued support of the Model Cities Program; and perhaps most importantly, a comprehensive overall design which clearly depicts the proposed physical image, allows for systematic and orderly replacement of buildings, and is flexible enough to accommodate growth and unanticipated change.

The useful life of any building can be extended indefinitely---witness the 1,000-year old buildings of Europe---but growth and change often demand spaces to house completely new uses. It is neither desirable nor economically feasible to make downtown Trinidad into a museum---a static, fixed entity to be looked at, but not utilized. Rather, viable economic uses must be determined for those buildings which are preserved to serve useful purposes together with the new and replacement buildings which will be needed. The center of Trinidad should be developed by building upon what already exists ---creating an area of charm and quality, sensitively scaled to the individual, attractive to the regional shopper, and a magnet to the visitor seeking to experience our past.

August 31, 1970

Langdon Morris
A.I.A.