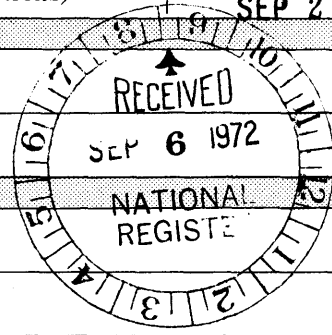


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| STATE: Colorado | |
| COUNTY: El Paso | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | SEP 29 1972 |



1. NAME

COMMON:
El Paso County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
215 South Tejon Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Colorado Springs

STATE: Colorado CODE: 08 COUNTY: El Paso CODE: 041

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
El Paso County

STREET AND NUMBER:
215 South Tejon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Colorado Springs STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
27 E. Vermijo Street

CITY OR TOWN: Colorado Springs STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| STATE: | Colorado |
| COUNTY: | El Paso |
| ENTRY NUMBER | SEP 29 1972 |
| DATE | |

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The courthouse is shaped in a rectangular form (150' by 110') with wall setbacks at the entrance. The building is centered on a full city block (400' by 400'), which also includes a bandstand southeast of it on the same block. The remainder of the block serves as a park.

Architect of the building was A. J. Smith. It has three floors and a basement. The foundation and the basement facades consist of large grey granite blocks; the remaining facades are faced with concrete blocks. The entire building is of an Italianate design.

The courthouse roof is flat in the middle and sloped at its edges. This roof, as well as the bandstand roof, is faced with convex Spanish red tiles.

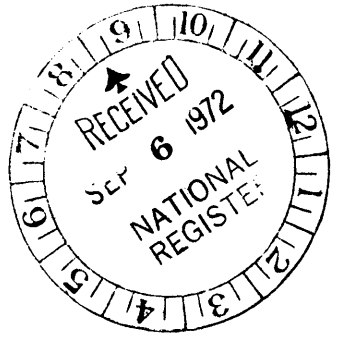
The north and south entrances are of Doric design while the east and west entrances are of Italianate design. The columns flanking the east and west entrances have floral work around them at two foot intervals. The pediments above the east and west entrances are rounded while those above the north and south entrances are rectangular; both have designs carved in relief. The stairways leading to all entrances are ornate; those leading to the east and west entrances are straight while those leading to the north and south entrances are in the shape of an inverted Y.

The windows on the first floor have round arches, and the keystone of each window arch has a carving of an Indian head representing one of the Indian tribes of the region. The basement, second and third floor windows are rectangular, with the exception of the large round arched windows on the second floor above the entrances. These windows are flanked by Ionic pilasters of a carved floral design. Their panes, as well as those of the basement windows under the north and south entrances are of a Roman design. At the base of the round arched second floor windows is a balustrade; on the east and west sides it is flush with the windows while on the north and south sides it forms the edge of a balcony in front of the windows. There is also an ornate balustrade in front of the third story windows.

The courthouse has a clock tower extending from the center of the building. This tower was constructed high enough to permit the construction of a fourth story if this was ever desired, but the additional story was never built. The clock tower is ornate, and has clocks on all four sides. Above the clocks is a floor with Roman pillar and arch construction with balustrades connecting the arches; above this floor is one with Corinthian columns surrounded by an ornate balustrade; finally, the tower is topped with an ornate dome. This tower can be seen from a great distance and so provides a sense of orientation for the residents of the region.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| STATE Colorado | |
| COUNTY El Paso | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER SEP 20 1972 | DATE |

(Number all entries)

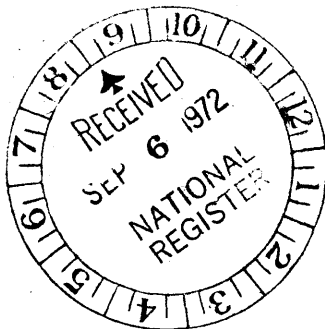
7. DESCRIPTION: (continued)

Marble and bronze are used extensively in the building. Extensive use is also made of columns throughout the basement and first two floors. In the center of the building is a rectangular bird cage elevator which was installed in 1917 and is still in operation today.

Through the courthouse are scattered large paintings depicting ranching, mining and other scenes which reflect the history of the region. On the north wall of the main courthouse is painted a silver goddess of justice, and on the south wall there is one of gold. In addition to these paintings, gingerbread wood carving was used to enhance the decor of the main courtroom. Mr. David Smith, brother of the architect, is believed to have carved the floral designs into the wood.

Past alterations include closing off the east and west entrances to provide more room for offices, and some of the larger rooms have been partitioned to make more offices. The entire building is now used for offices and courtrooms.

Some repairs will be needed. However, any alterations in plans for its future use as a museum, exhibition hall, and meeting place will restore the building more closely to its original appearance.



6 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | (dedicated in 1903) |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1903 - present**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Government</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input 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 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 INSTRUCTIONS

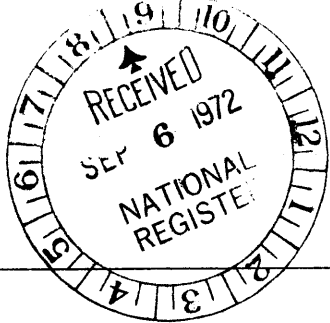
On April 18, 1899 the County of El Paso entered into a land agreement with the Town of Colorado Springs and the Colorado Springs Co. At that time, the county paid ten dollars to the Colorado Springs Co. for Alamo Square. General William Palmer, founder of Colorado Springs, was the president of the Colorado Springs Co. and was responsible for the concept and for setting aside Alamo Square as a park site and for use as a site for a county courthouse.

In 1901, the El Paso County Commissioners initiated construction of the new county courthouse in Alamo Square. It was designed by A. J. Smith and the major portion of the construction was handled by Archie and Agnus Gillis, local builders and stone cutters. The building was dedicated on May 16, 1903 to the people of the Pikes Peak Region.

The courthouse has witnessed thousands of trials during its sixty-nine years of existence. Some of these cases have had local historical significance.

In addition to the judicial element of the courthouse's history, there have been several historical personages connected with it. Besides General Palmer, Major Henry McAllister and Irving Howbert were associated with the courthouse. Major McAllister fought with General Palmer during the Civil War under the fighting 15th and was his right hand man; he delivered the opening address at the dedication of the building. Mr. Howbert, an important banker in the community and author of Memories of a Lifetime in the Pikes Peak Region, also participated in the dedication ceremonies.

A new county judicial building and jail complex are being constructed across the street from the courthouse. When they are completed, the courthouse will be vacated, and unless it is put to use, which will require some repairs and restoration, it is in danger of being razed. The Colorado Springs Central Area Plan endorsed by both the City and ENPAC (a private organization comprised of downtown businessmen) includes preservation of the courthouse and its surrounding park as an integral part of the plan. It is to be hoped that the courthouse will be preserved and employed for such uses as a museum, public meeting rooms, exhibition hall, and a public park.



1300 is wanted, restoration... will be... call 5/20/72

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howbert, Irving, Memories of a Lifetime in the Pikes Peak Region.

El Paso County Records.

Interview with Miss Dorothy Smith, Director, Pioneer Museum of Colorado Springs.

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no
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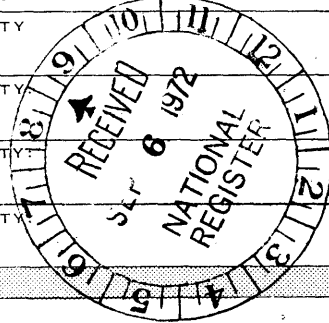
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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 | | | |
| | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | |
| NW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 38 | 0 | 49 | 20 |
| NE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 104 | 0 | 49 | 20 |
| SE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | | | |
| SW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 acre (16,500 square feet)

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Patricia T. Garris, Planner II

ORGANIZATION: **El Paso County Planning Department** DATE: **August 29, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
27 E. Vermijo Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Colorado Springs** STATE: **Colorado 80903** CODE: **08**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name: *Stephen H. Hart*
Stephen H. Hart

Title: Colorado State Liaison Officer

Date: August 30, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert T. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 9/29/72

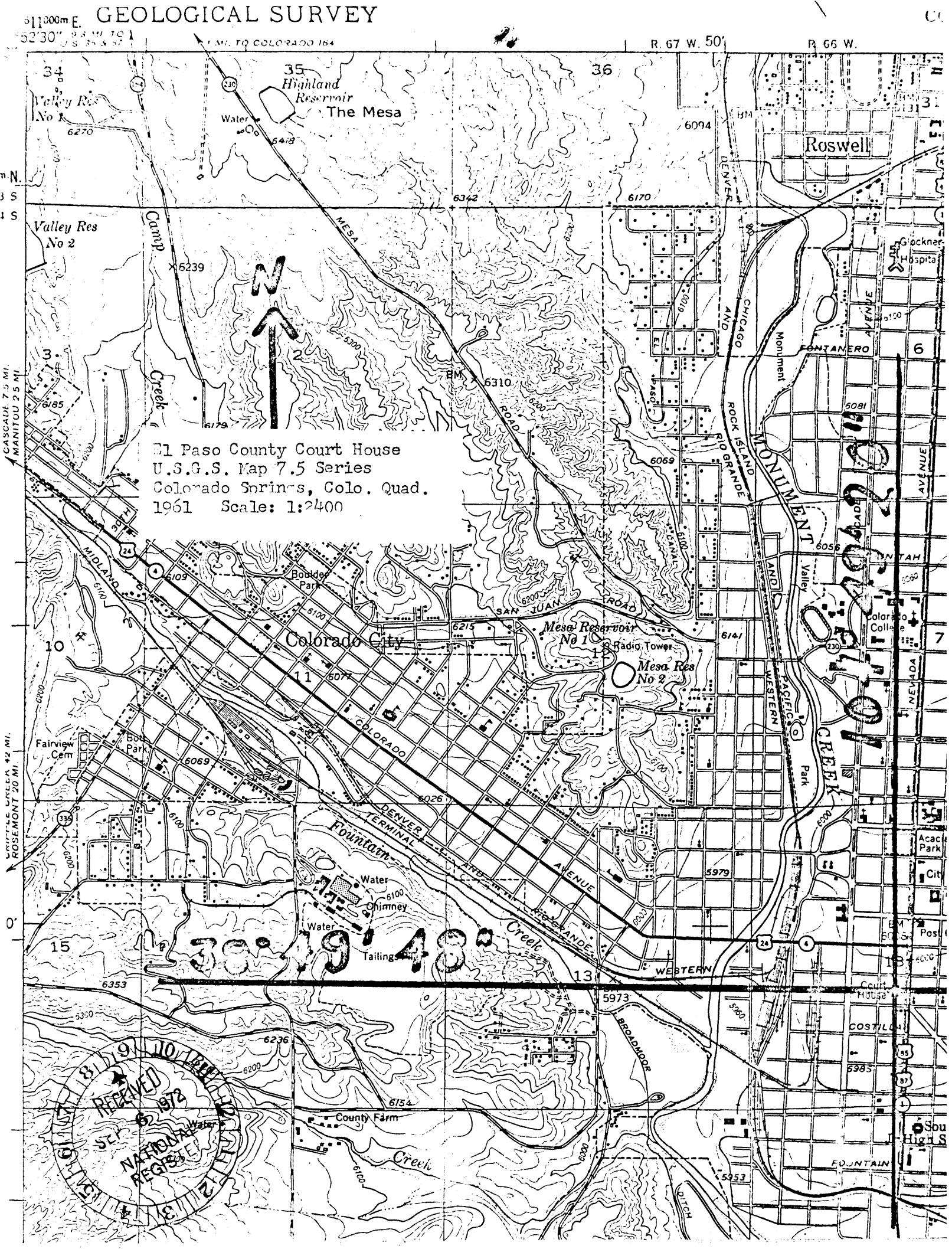
ATTEST:

William H. Bennett
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9.27.72

CASCADE 7.5 MI.
MANITOU 2.5 MI.

BRITTON 4.2 MI.
ROSEMONT 20 MI.



El Paso County Court House
U.S.G.S. Map 7.5 Series
Colorado Springs, Colo. Quad.
1961 Scale: 1:2400

Jan 19 48

PHOTO COPY

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REGISTER