

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Colorado
COUNTY: pitkin
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 12 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
pitkin County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
pitkin County Courthouse

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
506 East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Aspen

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
4

STATE: Colorado CODE: 08 COUNTY: pitkin CODE: 051

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input 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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

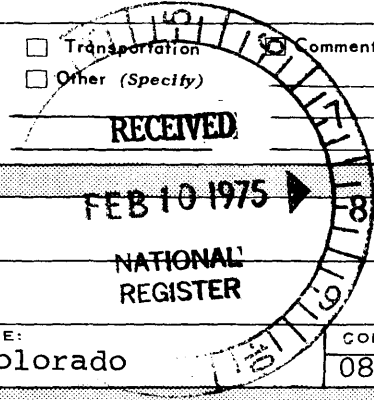
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
pitkin County, Colorado

STREET AND NUMBER:
506 East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Aspen

STATE: Colorado CODE: 08



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Clerk and Recorder, Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
506 East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Aspen

STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
City and Townsite of Aspen

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
County Engineer

STREET AND NUMBER:
506 East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Aspen

STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Colorado

COUNTY: pitkin

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: MAY 12 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

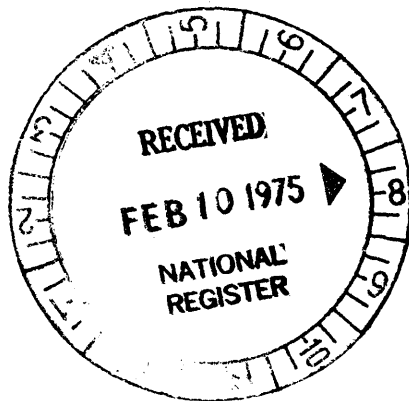
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pitkin County acquired Lots K, L, M, N, and O, Block 92 of the Original Aspen Townsite in May of 1890. The courthouse had been located at the corner of Mill and Cooper Street. William Quay of Denver had been chosen as architect for a new courthouse building and his plans were accepted by the County Commissioners in December of 1888. J. D. Hooper, as contractor of the project, began work in July of 1890 and the building was dedicated with a ceremony in late January of 1891. It has served as the seat of county government since that time.

The courthouse stands on the northern corner of Galena and Main Street. The corner stone is of pitkin County granite and takes a fine polish. The finishing both without and within is excellent. Over the main street entrance is a silver figure of Justice.

In the south east portion of the basement is the jail, which is entered through the Jailer's office; the female prisoners room being to the right. The jail consists of a steel cage in which are the cells, five in number, surrounding a corridor. The top and floor are also of steel, three layers being used, one soft and two hard. Each cell contains two bunks, so that the jail will accommodate twenty prisoners. The cells are all unlocked from the outside of the cage by an ingenious lever arrangement.

From the basement to the tower the building is complete in every detail, neat in design and convenient in plan. The sanitary arrangements were considered of the very best and the building was lighted by electricity.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pitkin County Courthouse is one of the oldest in the State of Colorado still being used for its original county government purpose. A building of this size was a tremendous undertaking for a community only ten (10) years old.

The elaborate arrangement and architectural design used in the Courthouse establishes it as extremely impressive building. The materials used are local in origin and the exterior has been altered very little from its original design. Recent exterior renovation has restored the exterior facade.

The location of the Courthouse at the corner of Galena and Main has established this as a public area and a recognizable focal point in the community.

Because the Pitkin County Courthouse (1) meets the standards and criteria as outlined in the city zoning code for designation as an H-Historic Overlay District, (2) has significant importance historically, architecturally and geographically, and (3) the preservation of such a unique and outstanding building is in the best interest of the citizens of Pitkin County and Aspen, the Historic Preservation Committee recommends that public hearings be held to consider an H-Historic Overlay District for the Pitkin County Courthouse, Lots K, L, M, N, and O of Block 92.

Commissioners - James Bennett, D. K. Hessong and George R. Ford.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Treasurer | L. D. Sweet |
| Clerk & Recorder | A. Mulqueen |
| Sheriff | J. W. White |
| Assessor | F. J. Cunningham |
| Superintendent of Schools | E. C. Stimson |
| County Surveyor | George Nyce |
| County Judge | Paren England |
| County Attorney | S. C. Wilson |
| District Judge | L. H. Rucker |
| District Attorney | G. D. Johnstone |
| District Clerk | John McEvay |

The courthouse was dedicated with all the pomp and ceremony a proud citizenry could bestow. There were many long articles bespeaking its splendor, a fireman's ball to honor it, and a dedication ceremony of immense proportions. From that time to this it has been an emotional, as well as a physical, landmark for the people of the county.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Aspen Times, January 1890
 County Records, Courthouse, Aspen, Colorado

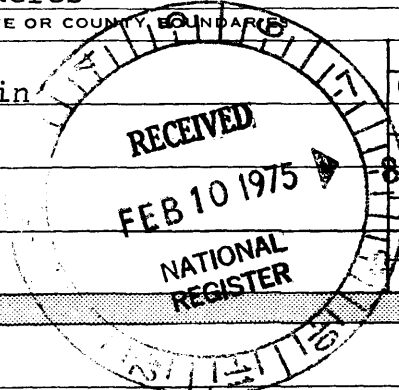
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 11 ' 26 "	106 ° 49 ' 02 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **4 1/2 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Colorado	08	Pitkin	051
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Ramona Markalunas**

ORGANIZATION: **Aspen Historical Society** DATE: **8-26-74**

STREET AND NUMBER: **620 West Bleeker Street, Box 1323**

CITY OR TOWN: **Aspen** STATE: **Colorado 81611** CODE: **08**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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. Hunt*

Title: *Colorado State Liaison Officer*

Date: *11/24/76*

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

Ernest A. Connally
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *5/12/75*

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Greenberg
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: *5/9/75*