

PH-0066613

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Colorado
COUNTY: Dolores
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 31 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rico City Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Formerly was the Dolores County Courthouse and County Seat

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On the Northeast Corner of Commercial and Mantz Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Rico

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Colorado CODE: 08 COUNTY: Dolores CODE: 033

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 type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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) _____ _____ _____
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Rico-Copy of Deed Attached

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Rico

STATE:
colorado

CODE:
08

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Courthouse-Dolores County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Rico

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:
Rico

STATE:
Colorado

CODE:
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

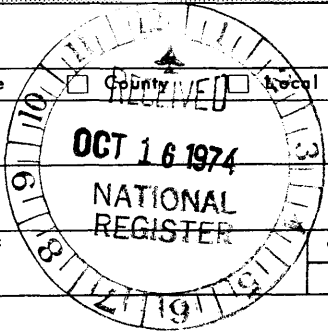
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

The courthouse was constructed by a Mr. Carpenter in 1892 and 1893. Since we have been unable to locate any design or plan for the building and the architecture varies from the first to the second floors it is suspected that the builder and the stone masons designed the building as they constructed it.

It was built as the courthouse and County Seat for Dolores County during the mining boom that resulted when Dave Swickhimer struck the Enterprize gold and silver contract in 1897. Rico had a population of approximately 4,000 at that time.

The building is rectangular in shape and has two stories plus a full basement that is one-half above and one-half below the ground level. The outer walls of the building were constructed of cut red sandstone from below the ground level to the beginning of the main floor. The two stories above were constructed of light common red brick set in stretcher bond. The bricks were hauled in from Durango, via railroad.

Both the exterior and interior are in a state of detoriation. The interior and ceiling are plastered. The ceiling of the second floor has considerable water damage caused by the leaking roof and much of the plaster has fallen away from the laths.

A new roof is probably the top priority need at the present. Only two rooms on the first floor are now usable.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)

1891-1892

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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input 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 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

Dolores County was carved from Ouray County by the passage of House Bill No. 111, February 10, 1881. Dolores County derived its name from the Dolores River, "The River of Sorrow", which headwaters within its borders. Dolores County adjoins San Miguel County on the north and Montezuma County on the south. It is essentially a strip of land 24 miles wide, with an area of 950 square miles and extends from the Utah state line on the west, 65 miles over mesas narrow valleys to the rugged mountainous portion of the east where Dolores and San Juan counties join on the Hermosa Divide.

Rico was incorporated October 11, 1879 and became the second incorporated town in Ouray County, the first being the town of Ouray. Communications and transportation between the two towns were most difficult and sometimes impossible. Rico with a growing population estimated at 4,000 sought and gained independence. Rico was named the County Seat of Dolores County, created for the purpose of facilitating government operations.

The rivalry that developed between the two towns was kept alive by Dave Day, editor of the Solid Muldoon and Charles A. Mantz, editor of the Dolores News. Vitriolic phrases spiced editorials until Dolores County was established. Accepting a new county government was not easy for Dave Day and he wrote, "Dearest Rico, thou has left us, departed from Muldoon's hand; but since the legislature has bereft us; you can go and be damned."

The rails of the narrow gauge Rio Grand Southern Railroad were laid into Rico in 1891 and many old problems were solved. The Iron Horse would replace hundreds of pack animals and oxen teams that for more than a decade had been the only means of transportation. Materials and supplies were made readily available and construction of new buildings developed into a building boom when many log and frame structures were replaced with brick and stone.

A two story log courthouse, cramped for space to serve an estimated population of 4,000 was obsolete and a new courthouse was planned. Native granite, plentiful in the area would be used for the foundation and basement walls. Red-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Statement of Significance and Photos by
Charles M. Engel, Local Historian

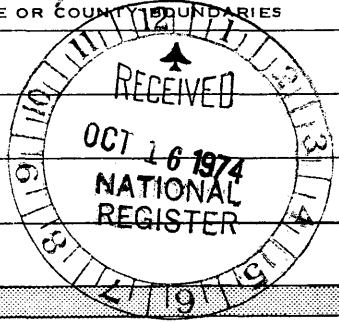
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		37 ° 41 ' 54 "	108 ° 02 ' -4 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "			(Elev. 8827')	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 114 acres ^{1/2}

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



UTM
12/761890
4175660

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Jack P. Curran - Mayor of Town of Rico, Colorado

ORGANIZATION: Town of Rico DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 235

CITY OR TOWN: Rico STATE: Colorado 81332 CODE: _____

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 U. West

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: 10/8/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

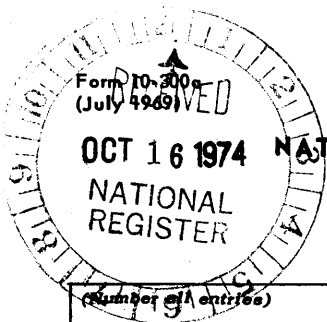
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Arthur M. Jensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: DEC 31 1974

ATTEST: Debra J. Emery
Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 31 1974



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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8. Statement of Significance

stone, a very dense, red sandstone from the Cutler formation, would support the walls of a two and one-half story modern courthouse. Redstone would be cut and shipped from Quarry, Colorado, 18 miles south of Rico on a spur of the Rio Grande Southern. Combined with the redstone, pressed brick from the Durango Brick Yard at Lightner Creek would be used in the exterior walls. Other materials used in construction would come from Pueblo, Denver, and St. Louis, Missouri.

Although 1892 is generally accepted as the date of construction it was late 1893 before the majestic building was near completion and ready for occupancy. The courthouse served for 53 years and survived the trials and tribulations common to all county governments. In the interim, mining was on the decline and homesteading lands were opened in the west of Dolores County. Transportation from Dove Creek was difficult, paralleling conditions that existed between Rico and Ouray before Dolores County was established. Residents of Dove Creek had complained for sometime about the location of the County Seat in Rico. Dove Creek had become the center of population with more than twice the number of inhabitants of the mining areas of Rico and Dunton. They contended that Dove Creek should be the County Seat.

The controversy became a major issue in the general election of 1944 and relocation of the county seat was widely publicized. Dove Creek won by a majority vote of 310 as a result, Dolores County records and records of the Town of Rico were removed from Rico in 1946 to the Butts store building in Dove Creek and the facilities of the Judges's chamber, the courtroom and the various legal offices extant in the town provided the needs of a new county seat.

Unoccupied in the years that followed, time and lack of maintenance took their toll of the old courthouse. Sale of the premises was considered and Lots 21 and 22, Block 15 with improvements, Rico, were advertised for bids. No bids were received.

Citizens of Rico concerned with the possibility of private ownership met the Board of County Commissioners in a desperate effort to resolve the problem. At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held in Dove Creek on the 3rd day of October, 1955 a resolution for the conveyance of the old Courthouse, Rico, was unanimously passed and signed by Clyde Wilson, Chariman, Commissioners Edward C. Baer and Paul Fury, and Attorney Guy B. Dyer Jr. A deed conveying the Old Courthouse to the Town of Rico was recorded in the County Clerk's office in Dove Creek, Colorado, April 2, 1956.

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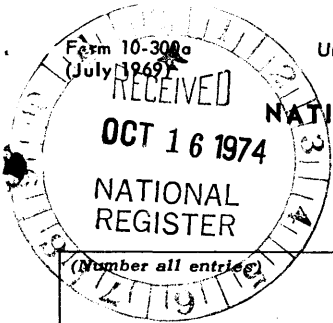
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8. Statement of Significance

After the property was acquired by the Town funds for repairs and maintenance were provided as was possible. A new roof was installed by volunteer labor, rooms on the main floor were renovated and the hallway textured. The building was partially rewired at a cost of \$900.00 and the obsolete coal fired steam boiler replaced with a new propane furnace. The building is used for offices of the Town Board, Rico Volunteer Firemen, Chamber of Commerce and is available for public meetings. A polling place is provided for all elections. It is anticipated that space for a museum can be made available after repairs and further renovation of the premises.

The Old Courthouse in Rico stands a monumental edifice to the determination of the pioneers of Rico and Dolores County





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**RICO CITY HALL
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION GUIDE**

MASSING OF UNITS:

1. Single detached--the structure stands freely by itself.

PLAN:

3. Rectangular--front and back are shorter than sides

WINGS

None

STORIES:

15. Other--Full basement ($\frac{1}{2}$ above and $\frac{1}{2}$ below ground level).
Two full equal size stories above basement.

BAYS:

Eighteen (18) windows and One (1) Door

BASEMENT:

5. Full--beneath all of the structure; equal to the floor area of the building

EXTERIOR WALL MATERIAL:

1. Ground level to first floor is cut red sand stone laid in broken course.
2. Beginning of first floor to top is common light red brick laid in stretcher bond.

WALL DESIGN AND DETAIL:

None

ROOF SHAPE:

35. Other--High Gable across front and back connected with high gable connecting front and back gable at peak of gable.

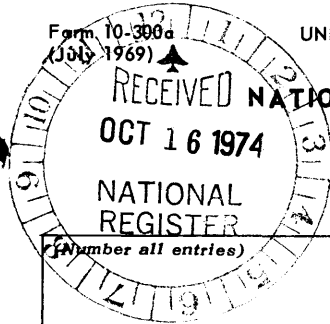
Gables appear as such:



CHIMNEY LOCATION--PLAN:

8. Other--In center of rear wall (Inside)

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**RICO CITY HALL
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION GUIDE**

CHIMNEY STACK UNITS:

- 2. Single--one stack only

DORMER SHAPE:

Similar to No. 5 (See Photos)

ROOF TRIM--EAVES TYPE:

- 4. Cornice Fascia alone--the horizontal, moulded section crowning the wall (cornice) consists of a flat board covering the ends of the rafters (fascia); open under rafters

ROOF TRIM--RAKING TYPE:

Similar to No. 12--parapet gable-a simple extension of the vertical wall on the gable end, extending above slope and roof line

ROOF TRIM--SPECIAL FEATURES:

- 1. None

MAIN WINDOW:

First or Main Floor- No. 1-flat, window head is horizontal
 Second Floor-Similar to No. 4-Semi-circular--half-circular, a semi-circle having its centre on the springing line

MAIN WINDOW SURROUND--HEAD--GROUND OR FIRST FLOOR:

- 3. Lintel--horizontal member spanning the window; of stone, wood, brick, etc. (First floor)
- 8. Arch, radiating voussoirs--arch composed of individual wedges with angled joints (voussoirs) (Second Floor)

MAIN WINDOW SURROUND--SIDES--GROUND OR FIRST FLOOR:

- 2. Plain--simple detail of wall construction that emphasizes the window opening

MAIN WINDOW SURROUND--SILLS--GROUND OR FIRST FLOOR:

- 2. Slipsill-- flush with the vertical sides of the window opening

MAIN WINDOW DIVISIONS--GROUND OR FIRST FLOOR:

- 4. Two (2) sash and transom--two major window sections, plus a transom light or panel (Both first and second floor)

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RICO CITY HALL
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION GUIDE

MAIN WINDOW SWING OR SLIDE--GROUND OR FIRST FLOOR:

- 2. Double hung--two sashes, one above the other, one or both can slide up and down (Both first and second floor)

SPECIAL WINDOW TYPES--ANY FACADE

- 9. Gothic--narrow, vertical, pointed window, adapted from Gothic church design; may have more than one section (Attic)

MAIN DOOR LOCATION:

- 2. Centre door, main facade--the door is centred in the main (long) facade of the house

MAIN DOOR STRUCTURAL OPENING SHAPE:

- 4. Semi-circular

MAIN DOOR SURROUND--HEAD:

- 19. Other (See Photos)

MAIN DOOR SURROUND--SIDES:

- 2. Plain

MAIN DOOR ARCHITRAVE TYPE:

- 1. None--no architrave detail (simple door, top, lock and hinge rail only, in construction opening)

MAIN DOOR ARCHITRAVE--SIDE PANELS:

- 1. None

MAIN DOOR ARCHITRAVE--TRANSOM PANELS:

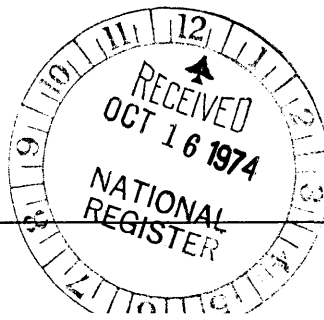
- 9. Recessed fan--as in #5, set in

MAIN DOOR TYPE:

- 7. Double Leaf, two panel

MAIN DOOR PANEL (S):

- 3. Plain recessed panel--undecorated panel, inset in relation to stile (vertical frame) and rail (horizontal frame)



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RICO CITY HALL
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION GUIDE

STAIRS--LOCATION AND DESIGN:

- 4. Ground or first floor with solid railing-- as above with heavy railing or wall

STAIRS--SHAPE:

- 2. Straight--stairs rise straight from ground level to entry level

PORCHES AND GALLERIES:

- 2. Platform or stoop--simple small entrance

PORCHES AND GALLERIES--SUPPORTS:

- 1. None

PORCHES AND GALLERIES--HEIGHT:

- 1. None

ADDITIONAL BUILDING FEATURES:

- 3. Spire or steeple--as above, with pointed or spire top (See Photos)

APPARENT ALTERATIONS AND/OR ADDITIONS:

Original roof had high gables across front and back with connecting high gable. Gable lines appeared from above as such:



Alterations made to center gable due to failure of snow to melt on North side. Center gable converted to shed type roof. Roof lines now appear as such:

