# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 1 4 1978

DATE ENTERED

#### TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS **1** NAME HISTORIC <u>City and County Building</u> AND/OR COMMON City-County Building **2 LOCATION** STREET & NUMBER 19th Street and Carey Avenue NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Cheyenne VICINITY OF First COUNTY CODE STATE CODE 56 021 Laramie Wvomina **3 CLASSIFICATION** CATEGORY **OWNERSHIP** STATUS PRESENT USE \_\_DISTRICT **X**PUBLIC X\_OCCUPIED \_\_AGRICULTURE .....MUSEUM XBUILDING(S) -PRIVATE \_\_\_UNOCCUPIED \_\_COMMERCIAL \_\_\_PARK \_\_\_STRUCTURE \_\_\_BOTH ---WORK IN PROGRESS \_\_EDUCATIONAL \_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE \_\_\_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE \_\_ENTERTAINMENT \_\_\_\_RELIGIOUS \_\_\_OBJECT \_\_IN PROCESS \_\_\_YES: RESTRICTED LGOVERNMENT \_\_\_SCIENTIFIC \_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED X\_YES: UNRESTRICTED \_\_INDUSTRIAL \_\_\_TRANSPORTATION \_\_NO \_\_\_MILITARY \_\_OTHER: **4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

NAME				~
NAME	Laramie County			
STREET & NUMBER				
	19th Street and Carey Av	/enue		
CITY, TOWN		S	TATE	
	Cheyenne vicinity o	F	Wyoming	82001
<b>5 LOCATION O</b>	F LEGAL DESCRIPTIO	N		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC.	City-County Building			
STREET & NUMBER	<u> </u>			
	19th Street and Carey Av	/enue		
CITY, TOWN		S	TATE	
	Cheyenne		Wyoming	82001
6 REPRESENTA	TION IN EXISTING S	URVEYS		
TÎTLE				
Wyoming Recreation	Commission, Survey of Hi	storic Sites, Markers	and Monur	nents
DATE				
	1967 (revised 1973)	FEDERAL X_STATECOUNTY	LOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Wyoming Recreation Commi	ission		
CITY, TOWN		S	TATE	<u></u>
	Cheyenne	W	yoming 8	32002

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
EXCELLENT _X_GOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL S MOVED	DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in Cheyenne, the City-County Building is a three-story rectangular building of composite construction. Materials used in the construction of this building include concrete, brick, stone, marble, and steel. Most of the construction materials came from Wyoming and Colorado. However, it is quite interesting to note that stone came from as far as Bedford, Indiana, and marble from Salt Lake City, Utah. Eighty-one feet wide by one hundred and twenty-seven feet long, the building houses offices of Laramie County and the City of Cheyenne, as well as the Laramie County District Court.

The architectural style of the City-County Building is Classic Revival. Typical of this style, the building incorporates a rusticated limestone base and arched first floor windows in relief. Brick veneer is used from the top of the base to the roofline. Some features of the building are pediments at the entrances and twelve Ionic columns—eight on the south facade, four on the east. Characteristics of these are distinct bases; capitals with large volutes; slender shafts with slight tapers; and a smooth, plain finish. The roof of the building is flat and of reinforced concrete slab construction.

The interior of the building is in excellent condition. Very few changes have been made to the original interior features. Perhaps the most significant change is the proposed replacement of the old steam heating system by a modern one. Stairways are of iron and steel, and railings are of ornamental wrought iron with wood handrails. Marble work consists of wainscoting along entrances, first, second, and ground floor corridors, in the courtroom, and the plinths of door casings. All wainscotings have a dark Tennessee base and white, Italian dado and cap. The overall height of the wainscoting is four and one-half feet.

Although the City-County Building houses many offices, including that of the author of this nomination, the most beautiful room in the building is the Laramie County District Courtroom. Located on the third floor, the spacious room has decorative columns on the interior side walls. The columns are of the Doric Order, characterized by fluted shafts and distinct bases as well as capitals. The three lights in the ceiling of the courtroom are glazed with beautiful art glass. The middle ceiling light bears the great seal of the State of Wyoming. Most of the original lighting fixtures in this room are still functional.

An annex was added to the building in 1957 at the southwest corner. It is a single-story, reinforced concrete structure and houses the offices of the Laramie County Civil Defense Department. At this point in time the annex should not be considered, for the purposes of this nomination, as part of the historic City and County Building.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTOHIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	<b>X</b> COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE XLAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION XOTHER (SPECIFY) Repository for Historic Government- Related Records.
SPECIFIC DATE	ES 1917-1919	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT William R. Dub John W. Howard	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The City-County Building, completed in 1919, is significant for its historic associations with the development of the City of Cheyenne and Laramie County governments. The building is a fine example of the Classic Revival Style, and is significant for the quality of its craftsmanship and detailing.

Originally, the City of Cheyenne and Laramie County had separate administrative buildings, known as the City Hall and Courthouse, respectively. The idea of combining the two buildings into one to reduce maintenance expenditures occurred to Mr. Warren Richardson, who was Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. The county and city officials met in November, 1914 to consider this proposition, and it was decided that a building should be built. Construction of the City and County Building was begun in 1917 and completed in 1919. William R. Dubois was the architect, and John H. Howard was the building contractor. This act of cooperation between two levels of government was very significant, in that it saved the citizens of Laramie County a lot of money. As a matter of fact, the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which was the cost of the building, was paid in cash as the building was being built.

Originally, the City-County Building housed fourteen county and six city offices, along with courts for each level of government. Additionally, the United States Internal Revenue and Prohibition Offices were also located here. Currently, the building houses most county offices and a few city offices, including the Mayor's Office. The courts for both governments are still being housed in the building.

The site of the City-County Building has some very interesting history behind it. The original Laramie County Courthouse, built in 1873, stood on the same site. It was the second courthouse erected in Wyoming Territory, and served as the Wyoming Territorial Capitol Building for the 1873 Legislative Session. The most famous case heard in this courthouse was that of a former Indian scout, and later cattle detective, Tom Horn. During this period of Wyoming's growth, violence was a way of life, especially when cattle were involved. Accused of killing the 13-year-old son of a sheep rancher by the name of Willie Nickell, Horn was subsequently tried and found guilty. Despite numerous attempts to escape from the county jail, Tom Horn was hung on November 20, 1903 at the corner of 19th Street and Pioneer Avenue. Tom Horn's conviction and execution raised a lot of doubts, and to some this mystery will never be completely solved. The original Laramie County Courthouse was razed in 1917, but the legend continues, and the site of the present City-County Building is part of that legend.

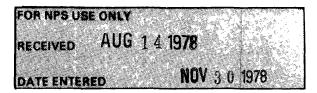
# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Addendum - Item 9

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ELLILI			FL		
GLI			нЦ		
VERBAL BOUNDARY DI	SCRIPTION	th ½ of Blo	ock 292, 0	riginal City of C	hevenne
on East by C	t by Pioneer / arey Avenue;	Avenue; Bou Bound on No	und on Sout orth by Mic	th by 19th Street d-block alley.	; Bound
LIST ALL STATES	AND COUNTIES FO	OR PROPERTIE	S OVERLAPPIN	NG STATE OR COUNTY B	OUNDARIES
STATE		CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY		CODE
11 FORM PREPAR	<b>ED BY</b> Punda Pai,	Senior Pla	anner		
ORGANIZATION	Cheyenne La Planning O	aramie Cour		al DATE May 5, 19	978
STREET & NUMBER	Box 3232, 1		^ Avenue	TELEPHONE (307) 63	
CITY OR TOWN	Cheyenne			state Wyoming	
<b>12 STATE HISTOR</b>	IC PRESER	VATION	OFFICE	R CERTIFICAT	ION
THEE	VALUATED SIGNI	FICANCE OF TH	IIS PROPERTY	WITHIN THE STATE IS:	
NATIONAL	_	STATE		LOCAL X	
As the designated State Histo hereby nominate this proper criteria and procedures set fo	ty for inclusion in th	ne National Reg			
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION	ON OFFICER SIGNATUR	ie an	Luc	loon	
TITLE Wyoming Stat	te Historic Pr	r <del>es</del> ervatior	n Officer	DATE Aug	gust 3, 1978
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT	THIS PROPERTY IS	INCLUDED IN	THE NATIONA	LREGISTER	
1 Chearters	Hung	ــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ		DATE / /	1.30.28
ATTEST:	IONAL REGISTER	-		DATE	
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GPO 921-803

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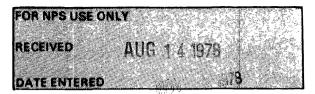


**CONTINUATION SHEET** City-County Bldg. ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In 1944 another major trial took place in Laramie County District Court. Cheyenne Mayor Ira L. Hanna, Police Chief Jess B. Ekdall and G. J. Morris and E. I. Violette of the Cheyenne Police Department were accused of soliciting and accepting a protection bribe from Mrs. Lola West, a proprietor of a West Cheyenne cafe. The four were charged with twice soliciting and accepting \$100 from Mrs. West, but the defendants pleaded innocent and claimed that the money represented fines derived on gambling, prostitution, and the sale of liquor. A Laramie County jury found them guilty, and Hanna and Ekdall were sentenced to not less than seven years and not more than ten years at the State Penitentiary in Rawlins. The defendants received the verdict stoically while Mayor Hanna's wife burst into tears. According to Byron Hirst, who was the prosecuting attorney, Hanna served out his sentence. This trial proves that even the highest office holders are not immune from the law, and have to pay the penalty for their crimes. The City-County Building is therefore a living symbol of law and justice.

The City-County Building is also significant as a repository of Laramie County documents. For instance, more than 52,000 civil, probate and criminal court records have been filed at the Laramie County District Court, some of which are more than one hundred years old. Several water rights cases relating to Crow Creek, Little Horse Creek, and others have been filed in the court. The laws established on these cases during the early part of the century are still in effect, and many times they are referred to as exhibits on current cases.

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** City-County Bldg. ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

#### BOOKS:

- Harris, Cyril M. (editor). <u>Historic Architecture Source Book</u>. New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, 1977.
- Larson, T. A. <u>History of Wyoming</u>. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1965.
- Monaghan, Jay. Legend of Tom Horn Last of the Bad Men. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill and Paine Company, 1946.
- Pain, Lauran. Tom Horn Man of the West. Barre, Massachusetts: Barre Publishing Company, 1963.

### BOOKLETS, PAMPHLETS:

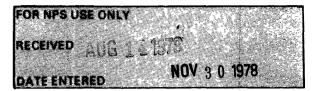
- Dubois, William. <u>Specifications of Materials and Labor Required for the</u> <u>Construction and Completion of a City/County Building at Cheyenne, Wyoming</u>. Cheyenne: available at City-County Building.
- Hansen, Lois Batalden. <u>A Brief History of Cheyenne, Wyoming</u>. Cheyenne: available at City of Cheyenne Community Redevelopment Agency, 1975. 43 pp.
- The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Wyoming. <u>A Survey of Wyoming County Courthouses - Their History, Architecture,</u> <u>Documents, Proceedings and Personnel</u>. (No publisher listed), 1972.
- Wyoming State Historical Society Laramie County Chapter. <u>Cheyenne Landmarks A Pictorial Essay of Interesting Buildings in Cheyenne</u>. Cheyenne: Pioneer Printing and Stationery Company, 1976. 18 pp.

#### **INTERVIEWS:**

Pat Creech by Punda Pai. March, 1978.

Byron Hirst by Punda Pai. March, 1978.

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** City-County Bldg. ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

#### **NEWSPAPERS:**

- "City/County Building," <u>Wyoming State Tribune and Cheyenne State Leader</u>, (Cheyenne, Wyoming). May 7, 1922. p. 12.
- "Bruce Jones named acting Mayor: Four officials connected on Bribe Charges: Group being held in County Jail: Bonds not posted," <u>Wyoming State Tribune</u>, (Cheyenne, Wyoming). May 8, 1944. p. 1.

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

- "Architects Drawings, City/County Building," Laramie County Engineer's Office, Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- "Vertical files-Laramie County Clerk," Laramie County Clerk's Office, Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- "Vertical files," Wyoming State Historical Department, Cheyenne, Wyoming.