

PHO 500 534

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 6 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 9 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Dormitory/Boarding Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Spruce Hall

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Colorado State University Campus

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fort Collins

VICINITY OF

4

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Colorado

08

Larimer

064

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Colorado State University

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fort Collins

VICINITY OF

Colorado

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Facilities, Construction and Utilization Department

STREET & NUMBER

351 Alyesworth Hall, Colorado State University

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fort Collins

Colorado

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Existing Sites

DATE

Ongoing

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Colorado

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Denver

Colorado

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Spruce Hall was designed and built in 1881 by Hiram Pierce. The single, detached building is the oldest on the Colorado State University Campus. It is one of two remaining buildings which reflect the architectural character of the original campus. The building is a two-story structure, rectangular in shape, with a full basement. Originally, it measured fifty-three feet by twenty-five feet. These dimensions were increased with the building of single story additions measuring thirty by forty feet in 1925 to the north and south facades. There are five bays on the main facade.

The exterior wall is composed basically of both light and dark red brick set in stretcher bond. Running in bands around the building and underneath windows are the darker colored bricks used as a decorative element. A cut stone course with rubble face composes the basement portion of the building. The brick and stone are separated by a vermiculated belt course of sandstone. Wall construction is undetermined.

Roof construction is low hip with a center gable and covered with reddish colored asphalt composition shingles. Today no chimneys remain except for one on the relatively new north addition; originally there were at least two and probably four single chimneys located offset left and right on the front and possibly back slope. Eaves on the Hall are cornice boxed with plain frieze and brackets. The gable is overhung and sports a decorated partial return. On the gable's peak is a flagpole. An attic vent whose structural opening shape is triangular can be found on the gable.

Windows on the main facade, ground floor, are segmental, the heads composed of a three-piece vermiculated arch with relieved keystone; the lugsills are also vermiculated. Windows on the second floor are the same with the exception of a pair located above the main doors and beneath the attic vent. The heads are semi-elliptical rather than segmental in shape. All are two sashed and double hung.

Located in the center of the east or main facade are the double leaf, four panel segmental doors. Door panels incorporate molded rails and recessed panels. The door head sports a three-piece elliptical arch with keystone and matches the pattern of the windows. Side panels are blind flush. The architrave is plain with embrasure. Stairs located at the center of the facade are straight and mount to the main floor. Underneath and on either side of the stairs can be found semi-elliptical archways with stairs leading to the basement. The main stairs employ both solid and metal railings. The building has an umbrage which reaches to the top of the main floor.

Spruce Hall was designed as a dormitory. The two floors each had nine rooms measuring nine by thirteen feet. The basement housed a kitchen, dining room and rooms for the cook and her family. Since 1893 the interior has been remodeled numerous times until today the floor plan little resembles that of 1881.

(more on Continuation Sheet,  
Page 1)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 6 1977

DATE ENTERED

JAN 9 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Two windows on both the north and south facades were partially bricked over in 1925 when the additions were constructed. In 1881 a rather substantial coal house and probably ice house were added to the west facade of the building. The outline of where the coal house met the west facade is still visible; neither house is extant. The metal railing on the stairs is a recent addition as are the asphalt shingles. Ornate porch light fixtures have been added.

Spruce Hall has not been encroached on by other buildings to a significant degree. The setting is one of the prettier areas of campus and the grounds well kept. With the exception of the additions to the north and south facades, the exterior of the building has experienced relatively few changes. In short, although Spruce Hall has been altered, its architectural integrity has not been lost.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      1881-1893      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Hiram Pierce/same

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1881, Spruce Hall is the oldest surviving building on the Colorado State University Campus. It reflects the architectural style found on the early campus. Until 1893 the building served as a coed dormitory and accommodated both faculty and students. During the twelve years it operated as a dormitory, the building played an important part in the history and development of CSU. Some of the residents became embroiled in controversy; others were or became leaders or persons of distinction to the university, community and state. Some had a profound effect on Colorado, particularly in the areas of agriculture, education, irrigation and veterinary medicine.

In addition to being the oldest surviving building, Spruce Hall closely resembles Old Main, the first substantial building on campus. Many architectural features were common to both including shape, window construction, roof shape, colored brick patterns and stairs. The Horticulture and Botanical Laboratory also exhibits many features common to the Hall. The Laboratory is located directly north of Spruce Hall and spatially arranged to compliment it. Spruce Hall provides the viewer with a clear picture of the appearance of early buildings at CSU.

Student enrollment at CSU had been limited due to the lack of housing both in town and on campus. With Spruce Hall's completion in 1881, enrollment nearly doubled and CSU clearly became a viable academic community. In addition to increasing enrollment, the educational opportunities for women improved, since involvement in the dormitory operations provided women with valuable training in domestic economy. Elizabeth G. Bell, the first female professor, lived in and acted as matron of the Hall. She used the Hall as a training ground for her female students. In addition to these functions, the building served as a social gathering place for the students and faculty alike.

This factor caused a large amount of friction and ultimately caused the removal of the first college president, Dr. Elijah E. Edwards. Professor Charles F. Davis lived in the Hall and was responsible for discipline. He fell in love with a female student. President Edwards ordered Davis removed from the building and faculty. Edwards and his wife moved into Spruce Hall and took over disciplinary duties. Davis gathered support for his reinstatement and when the governing body of CSU met on April 5, 1882, Edwards was forced to resign his position. Professor A. E. Blount, also a Spruce Hall resident, took over as acting president. Charles L. Ingersoll, the second president, lived in and ran the Hall for a time.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clipping file marked C.S.U. Buildings. CSU Archives.  
 Coloradoan (Ft. Collins), 15 February 1950.  
 Green, E. and Wilsey, S. The Elwood Mead Professorship of Engineering at Colorado State University. Ft. Collins: Printing and Publications, n.d.  
 Hanson, James E. "A History of Colorado State University, 1870-1974." CSU Archives. (more on Continuation Sheet, Page 3)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under one acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	13	4 93 4 20	44 91 5 20	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The lot is bounded on the north by West Laurel, on the south by Old Main Drive, on the east by South College Ave., and on the west by an alley located directly behind the building.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
None			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lee Behrens/Graduate Student

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Colorado State University

STREET & NUMBER

December 8, 1976

TELEPHONE

522 East Laurel

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Fort Collins

Colorado

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

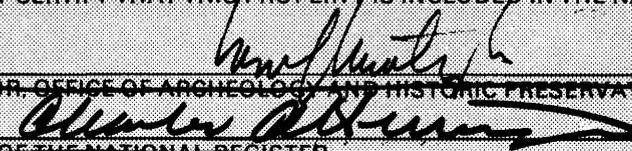
Col. SHPO

DATE

6/8/77

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST:   
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 1-9-78  
 DATE 1-6-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 6 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 9 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Both Edwards and Ingersoll realized the importance of agriculture to Colorado and the value of education in that field. Edwards stressed a strong curriculum in agriculture and Ingersoll, formerly a professor at Purdue, followed this policy. To carry the program another step, Ingersoll hired Elwood Mead, a former student from Purdue.

Mead was destined to become one of the most famous persons associated with CSU. During his tenure he dined in the building. While at CSU Mead was named the first professor of irrigation engineering in the United States. Irrigation profoundly influenced agriculture in the West; in arid and semi-arid regions, his revolutionary code of water law became a model for irrigation laws adopted by four-fifths of the western states and numerous foreign countries. Positions he filled include the following: State Engineer of Wyoming; Chairman of State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, Victoria, Australia; and Commissioner of Reclamation, United States Department of the Interior. Lake Mead, the huge reservoir created by Hoover Dam, is named for the man.

In addition to agriculture, CSU eventually became noted for its veterinary medicine program due mainly to George A. Glover. An original resident of Spruce Hall, he was a member of the first graduating class. While dressing for commencement, a professor offered Glover a loan so he could attend Iowa State and work for a degree in veterinary medicine. Glover accepted. In 1901 he returned to CSU as a professor, established the veterinary department and, at his urging, a veterinary degree was offered. Glover served as department head for twenty-eight years and retired as the department's dean in 1935. The veterinary medicine hospital is named for him. In addition, Glover found a way of controlling hog cholera which at one time decimated whole herds of hogs in the San Luis Valley of Colorado. Graduates of the department have served the state well.

For its architectural significance, association with famous persons, and its role in allowing CSU to grow and develop, Spruce Hall is a worthy candidate for the National Register.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 6 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 9 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

"Historic Documents of Colorado State University." Books 3-7. CSU Archives.

Miller, James R. "Pioneer College President." CSU Archives.

Physical Plant Records for Spruce Hall. Physical Plant.

"The State Board of Agriculture Record From Sept. 11, 1877, to June, 1886. Inclusive. (SBA-N01)" CSU Archives.