**Form No. 10-300**

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**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*

**TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**

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**1 NAME**

**HISTORIC**

Dormitory/Boarding Hall

AND/OR COMMON Hall

Spruce Hall

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**LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER**

Colorado State University Campus

CITY, TOWN

Fort Collins

STATE

Colorado

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**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

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**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**NAME**

Colorado State University

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Facilities, Construction and Utilization Department

STREET & NUMBER

351 Alyesworth Hall, Colorado State University

CITY, TOWN

Fort Collins

STATE

Colorado

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**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE**

Colorado Inventory of Existing Sites

**DATE**

Ongoing

**FEDERAL X STATE **

**COUNTY **

**LOCAL **

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

State Historical Society of Colorado

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

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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.
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.
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.

(more on Continuation Sheet, Page 2)
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clipping file marked C.S.U. Buildings. CSU Archives.
Hanson, James E. "A History of Colorado State University, 1870-1974." CSU Archives. (more on Continuation Sheet, Page 3)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: under one acre

UTM REFERENCES

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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

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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Lee Behrens/Graduate Student
ORGANIZATION: Colorado State University
STREET & NUMBER: 522 East Laurel
CITY OR TOWN: Fort Collins
STATE: Colorado

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  ___  STATE  X  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: [Signature]

TITLE: State SHPO
DATE: 6/8/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DATE: 1/9/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE: 1/9/78
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.
"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.