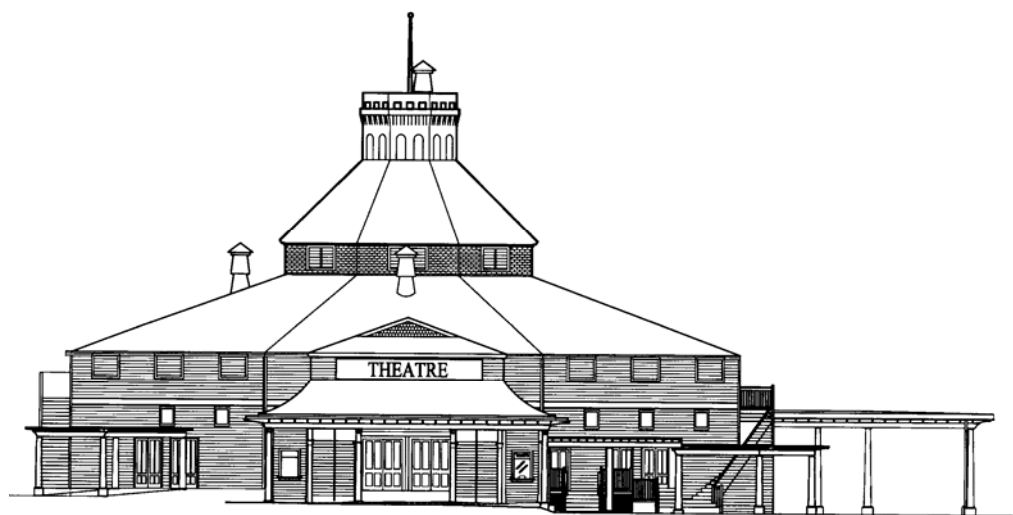


THEATERS AND AUDITORIUMS



LISTED IN THE



COLORADO STATE REGISTER *of* HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Updated Through September 2007



OFFICE *of* ARCHAEOLOGY *and* HISTORIC PRESERVATION



The Colorado State Register of Historic Properties is a program of the Colorado Historical Society. Founded in 1879, the Colorado Historical Society brings the unique character of Colorado's past to more than a million people each year through historical museums and highway markers, exhibitions, manuscript and photograph collections, popular and scholarly publications, historical and archaeological preservation services, and educational programs for children and adults. The Society collects, preserves, and interprets the history of Colorado for present and future generations. A nonprofit agency with its own membership, the Society is also a state institution located within Colorado's Department of Higher Education

The Colorado Historical Society operates twelve historic sites and museums at ten locations around the state, including the Colorado History Museum in Denver. Each has its own regional character and thematic focus—from the days of the fur trade along the South Platte and Arkansas Rivers to early Hispanic life and settlement in southern Colorado, the Ute Indians of the Western Slope, the Clear Creek gold rush, the Leadville silver boom, and the growth of Denver.

The Society's collections—protected, conserved, and held in trust for all of Colorado's people—contain more than 125,000 artifacts and eight million historical documents, including books, maps, photographs, diaries, and newspapers. From these historical treasures and tools of knowledge, we prepare exhibitions, publications, and educational programs—and we offer a full range of services for researchers through the Society's Stephen H. Hart Library. Historians, archaeologists, and preservationists of all kinds may also explore the vast database of Colorado's visible past—and link to other preservation resources—through the Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. Whether for business or pleasure, many of the Society's statewide facilities offer excellent, history-rich settings for special events.

Front Cover
Elitch Theater in Denver
Drawing by OZ Architecture, Denver
Collection of the Colorado Historical Society

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Colorado Historical Society
1300 Broadway
Denver Colorado 80203

A Preservation Program of the
 **COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Preservation Planning Unit staff of the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation regularly updates the directory as new listings of Colorado theaters and auditoriums occur in the National Register of Historic Places or the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

The activity that is the subject of this material has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Historic Preservation Act, administered by the National Park Service, U.S Department of the Interior and for the Colorado Historical Society. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of the Interior or the Society, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute an endorsement or recommendations by the Department of the Interior or the Society.

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This publication was partially funded by the State Historical Fund, a grants program of the Colorado Historical Society.



HISTORIC DESIGNATION TYPES

The properties featured in this directory are listed in either the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties or the National Register of Historic Places. Some properties are individually listed and others are listed as part of larger historic districts.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. In Colorado, the program is administered by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) within the Colorado Historical Society.

Included among the approximately 80,000 listings that make up the National Register are:

- All historic areas in the National Park System;
- Over 2,300 National Historical Landmarks, which have been designated by the Secretary of the Interior because of their importance to all Americans;
- Properties across the country that have been nominated by governments, organizations, and individuals because they are significant to the nation, to a state, or to a community.

Properties may be listed in the National Register for being historically significant in one or more of the following areas:

- Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- Association with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or representing the work of a master, or possessing high artistic values, or representing a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- Yielded or being likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In Colorado, the National Register includes nearly 1,300 listings, both individual properties and historic districts containing multiple properties. All properties listed in the National Register are automatically listed in the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The Colorado State Register of Historic Properties is a listing of the state's significant cultural resources worthy of preservation for the future education and enjoyment of Colorado's residents and visitors. Properties listed in the State Register include individual buildings, structures, objects, districts and historic and archaeological sites. Criteria for inclusion in the State Register include the following:

- The association of the property with events that have made a significant contribution to history;
- The connection of the property with persons significant in history;
- The apparent distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or artisan;
- The geographic importance of the property;
- The possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history.

The State Register program is administered by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation within the Colorado Historical Society. The Society maintains an official list of all properties included in the State Register. Properties that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places are automatically placed in the State Register. Properties may also be nominated separately to the State Register without inclusion in the National Register.

Nearly 1,700 properties are listed in the State Register. These listings include residences, business buildings, schools, farms and ranches, mining sites, commercial districts, residential neighborhoods, railroad grades, and even locomotives and railroad rolling stock. At least one property in every Colorado county is included in the register. The first State Register listings occurred in 1991, though all previously listed National Register properties were automatically added to the State Register.

The Colorado Historical Society imposes no restrictions as to what private property owners may or may not do with their property as a result of listing. Private property owners may alter or demolish a listed property subject only to applicable local government regulations and permitting procedures. Properties which lose the historical qualities which originally led to their listing are subject to removal from the State Register.



COLORADO STATE REGISTER *of* HISTORIC PROPERTIES

DIRECTORY PROPERTY LISTING FORMAT

Format:

HISTORIC NAME/NAMES

(Current name)

Address or location

Designation Type, Date, Site Number

Significance statement

Example:

ELITCH THEATRE

W. 38th Ave. and Tennyson St., Denver

National Register 3/21/1978, 5DV.143

Built in 1890 by John and Mary Elitch, this theatre is a representative example of 19th-century Resort style architecture. John died while on tour in 1891, leaving Mary to manage the theatre and the surrounding Elitch gardens and amusement park. The theatre was the longest continuously operated summer stock theatre in the United States, and until its closure in 1987 was the site of countless plays, vaudeville shows, light operas, and classical music programs. Elitch Theatre hosted the first screen-projected motion picture shown in Denver in 1896. Over the years, many notable performers, including Sarah Bernhardt, Douglas Fairbanks, and Gloria Swanson, graced its stage. The amusement park relocated in 1995 leaving the theatre building as one of the few surviving historic elements in a residential and commercial redevelopment.



Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are from the collection of the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society.



***PLEASE –
RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY***

The properties listed in this directory have been identified and recognized as significant cultural resources in Colorado. Most properties are privately owned and may not be open to the public. Therefore, please respect the owner's privacy.

Specific locational information is not included for all of the listed properties. In some cases, private owners have requested that such information not be published.

Participation in the protection and preservation of Colorado's cultural resources is open to everyone. If you have any questions, comments, or additional information regarding the properties in this directory, please contact the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation by phone at 303-866-3392 or by email at oaahp@chs.state.co.us.

THEATERS AND AUDITORIUMS IN THE STATE REGISTER

The establishment of a formal facility for the performance arts marked a community, at least in its own estimation, as having reached a significant plateau in the struggle for stability and sophistication, regardless of the type of entertainment that such a facility might present. Often creative entrepreneurs turned space above a saloon or retail store into an early theater or music hall. Some fraternal lodges leased out their halls for social and entertainment uses. In small towns and rural communities, the local school building often doubled as the informal theater and auditorium.

In the late nineteenth century, many Colorado towns established opera houses as their centers of stage and musical performances. Such buildings generally arose through a consortium of prominent business leaders or a single prosperous benefactor. While seldom the venue for a full operatic performance, the opera house hosted light opera, musical performances, readings by prominent traveling authors, plays, and other entertainment, and often served as a place to hold public meetings and political rallies.

By the twentieth century, theaters of all sizes marked Colorado communities, accommodating a wide variety of live performance. As commercial motion pictures entered the scene in the first decade of the twentieth century, theater managers added the new format to programs featuring live performance. With the growing popularity of movies, older theaters reduced or eliminated live performance while expanding the celluloid variety. Theaters designed exclusively for motion pictures began opening in many towns by the 1920s.

The silent films of the era required an accompanying pianist or organist. With the introduction of sound movies in the late 1920s, new movie theater designs eliminated the orchestra pit and expanded the seating. The elimination of live performance also saw the end of elevated side box seats and the expansion of the central balcony better oriented for viewing the screen. Behind the scenes, movie theaters required minimal fly space above the stage, so necessary for the changing of sets in live performance theater, and eliminated entirely dressing rooms and property storage facilities.

Theater or Theatre?

Several sources indicate that Noah Webster first changed "theatre" to "theater" in the 1830s as part of his effort to create an American language devoid of English spellings. "Colour," "centre" and other British words succumbed to his Americanization. British actors and managers dominated the American theatre/theater at the time, and they, along with American actors and managers trying to suggest that theater/theatre constituted a high class art, stubbornly clung to the British spelling. There have been numerous attempts since to differentiate usage, with some insisting that "theater" is the building and "theatre" is the art form. In this publication we use "theatre" when this is the historic name of the facility and "theater" in all other cases, for both the structure and the performance.



Stylistically, early theater designers often utilized ornate revivalist or exotic architecture to enhance the overall entertainment experience. Theater benefactors occasionally employed elaborate theater architecture and ornament as a way of flouting their economic standing. In the 1920s and 1930s, the grand movie palace, like Denver's Paramount Theater, developed in larger urban centers as the pinnacle of theater design. Small town theaters and neighborhood theaters in larger urban areas used lesser levels of ornamentation, but still sought to enhance the fantasy aspect of theater attendance. Egyptian motifs gained brief popularity in the 1920s, particularly as a result to the publicity associated with the 1922 discovery of King Tut's tomb in Egypt. By the late 1930s, Art Deco and Art Moderne designs rose to popularity, combining modernism with ornamentation.

While nearly all early theaters were privately owned, larger communities often felt a need for a public facility leasable for private productions but also available for non-profit and public uses. Denver's 1908 Municipal Auditorium is an example of a flexible facility that hosted a variety of sporting events, exhibitions, and conferences as well as traditional theater.

During the Great Depression, such federal public relief programs as the Works Progress Administration and the Public Works Administration funded the construction or expansion of public auditoriums. Many of these were associated with public schools and emphasized gymnasium facilities with a stage for other uses. A few, like the Central School Auditorium and Gymnasium in Monte Vista, took on a more traditional auditorium format with permanent raked seating and a large formal stage.

Not all theater occurred indoors. In fact, the earliest roots of the theater are in outdoor performance. The amphitheatre places participants in a natural surrounding, often to enhance the connection between the setting and the performance, as is true of amphitheaters used in state and national parks for interpretive programs. In other cases, like Red Rocks Park west of Denver, a natural setting lent itself to the establishment of an amphitheater suitable to everything from Easter sunrise services to rock concerts under the stars. And then there is the drive-in theater, that unique combination of amphitheater, movie screen and automobiles so in tune with car-oriented American popular culture. Once prevalent in the early postwar years, the drive-in has decreased in numbers across the state with survivors holding on in the face of increasing entertainment options and rising real estate values.

Historic theaters and auditoriums in National Register or State Register districts that lack individual historic designation are not included in this directory. These buildings will be included in a future edition.



Interior decoration at the Egyptian Theater in Delta.

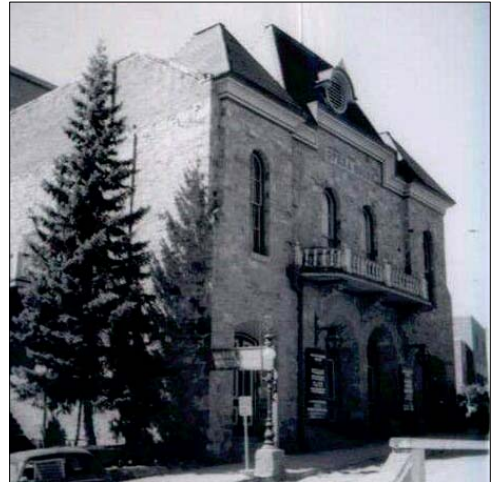
OPERA HOUSES

CENTRAL CITY OPERA HOUSE

Eureka St., Central City

National Register 1/18/1973, 5GL.8

Opened in March of 1878, the two-story Renaissance Revival style stone building is the oldest surviving and first permanent opera house in Colorado. The Gilpin County Opera House Association, a citizens' group interested in bringing cultural opportunities to the area, raised the funds to erect the building. Denver architect Robert Roeschlaub produced the design. Between 1910 and 1927, the opera house functioned as a motion picture theater. Donated to the University of Denver in 1931, the Central City Opera House Association restored the building to serve as a venue for an ongoing summer opera program.



DICKENS OPERA HOUSE

300 Main St., Longmont

National Register 7/28/1987, 5BL.268

This 1881 building bears the name of prominent Longmont resident William Henry Dickens. It served as Longmont's most widely used community center from 1882 through the 1920s and retains much of its original appearance.



JAFFA OPERA HOUSE / HAUSMAN DRUG (West Theater)

100-116 W. Main St., Trinidad

National Register 2/7/1972, 5LA.2181

The two-story brick and sandstone Italianate style building, with its elaborate bracketed cornice, was one of the first buildings in the area to make use of the high quality sandstone from nearby quarries. Constructed in 1883, the building was the cultural heart of the city for the next twenty years. The top stage, opera, and vaudeville troupes touring throughout the western part of the country performed here.



MANCOS OPERA HOUSE

136 W. Grand Ave., Mancos

National Register 1/7/1998, 5MT.8592

Completed in 1910, the red brick building was the center of widespread community activity in Mancos and drew people from neighboring towns. Designed in the early-20th-century Commercial style, it is one of the largest commercial buildings in Mancos and Montezuma County. Although appearing to be a three-story building on the exterior, the large second floor has a high ceiling designed to accommodate a wide variety of social and recreational activities, from dances and sporting events to stage productions.



OPERA HOUSE BLOCK / CENTRAL BLOCK BUILDING

131 N. College Ave., Fort Collins
National Register 2/8/1985, 5LR.742

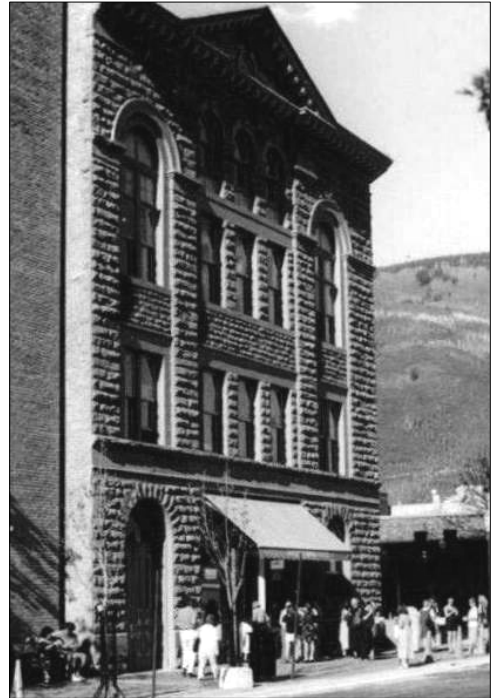
Prominent Fort Collins businessmen funded the construction of the Opera House Block. In addition to theatrical performances, community events were held here, including the first commencement for the agricultural college (now Colorado State University) in 1884. The original 1881 three-story, red brick and cut stone, Late Victorian commercial building underwent a major renovation in 1917. Architect Ansel Pierce's design reflects the Classical Revival style updated with Chicago School overtones.



WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

330 E. Hyman Ave., Aspen
National Register 8/21/1972, 5PT.35

Financed by Jerome B. Wheeler, construction of the massive three-story commercial building located on a prominent downtown corner began in 1888 and reached completion in 1898. Designed by early Denver architect Willoughby J. Edbrooke, utilizing a mix of Romanesque and Italianate style architectural elements, the primarily hipped roof building has walls of peachblow sandstone. Rounded arches define window and door openings on the first and third levels. Retail spaces originally filled the first floor, professional offices were on the second, and the Opera House occupied the entire third floor. A fire gutted the third floor in 1912, and it remained closed off until 1947 when the Aspen Company leased the upper two floors.



THEATERS

BLUEBIRD THEATER

3315-3317 E. Colfax Ave., Denver
National Register 1/31/1997, 5DV.4519

The Bluebird Theater opened in 1915 as the Thompson, one of the early Denver theaters designed specifically for the exhibition of movies. Harry Huffman, premier movie theater owner and promoter, acquired the Bluebird to begin the city's first and largest locally owned chain of movie theaters. Designed by prominent Denver architect Harry W.J. Edbrooke, the theater represents what quickly became a discernable type of entertainment venue, the neighborhood movie theater.



BONFILS MEMORIAL THEATRE (Tattered Cover Book Store)

1475 Elizabeth St., Denver
National Register 12/27.2006, 5DV.4045

The primary mover in the development, funding, and creative direction of the theatre was Helen Bonfils. She commissioned its construction in memory of her parents, Belle and Frederick G. Bonfils. Designed in 1949 by Denver architect John K. Monroe, the theatre opened in 1953 as the new home of the Denver Civic Theatre, a performance group founded in 1929 in cooperation with Denver University. More than any other single individual, Helen Bonfils raised civic theatre in Denver to the high standards represented by the Bonfils Memorial Theatre. Her successful efforts to bring first class Broadway plays to the stage of this top quality theatre gave the city a class of performing arts typical of larger cities and professional companies. The continued growth of civic theatre and the establishment of the professional Denver Center for the Performing Arts sprang directly from the Bonfils Memorial Theatre and the dedication of Helen Bonfils. New owners rehabilitated the long-closed building in 2006 to become the Tattered Cover Book Store.



CREST THEATER / I.O.O.F. HALL

4th and Curtis, De Beque
National Register 3/25/1993, 5ME.6937

The Odd Fellows constructed the two-story building as a meeting hall by in 1900. Beginning in 1918, movies were shown in the first floor space, and the building served as the social and entertainment center for the surrounding area into the early 1930s. Architecturally, the hall is an excellent example of the use of pressed metal as a decorative cladding for a wood-frame structure. Coursed stone pattern metal sheets clad the side walls, and distinctive facade components include engaged columns, stylized floral motifs, and a projecting cornice with a fleur de lis and swag motif.



EGYPTIAN THEATER

452 Main St., Delta

National Register 7/12/1993, 5DT.431

The Great Depression-era motion picture theatrical promotion known as "Bank Night" began in Delta's Egyptian Theater. Created by Charles Yaeger to stimulate lagging theater attendance, the first Bank Night occurred at the Egyptian Theater in March of 1933. Within four years the promotion, in which cash prizes were awarded to theater patrons, spread to movie theaters across America. A recent rehabilitation project returned the Egyptian to its 1928 appearance as designed by Denver architect Montana Fallis. Egyptian Revival architecture experienced a brief period of popularity in the 1920s, particularly for movie theater construction. The first Egyptian styled theater to be constructed in the U.S.—which inspired many of the identically-named theaters that followed—was Grauman's Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood, California, which opened in October 1922. Many of the other theaters that copied Grauman formed part of the wave of Egyptian Revival architecture occurring after the November 1922 discovery of King Tut's tomb in Egypt.



ELITCH THEATRE

W. 38th Ave. and Tennyson St., Denver

National Register 3/21/1978, 5DV.142

Built in 1890 by John and Mary Elitch, this theatre is a representative example of 19th-century Resort style architecture. John died while on tour in 1891, leaving Mary to manage the theatre and the surrounding Elitch gardens and amusement park. The theatre was the longest continuously operated summer stock theatre in the United States, and until its closure in 1987 was the site of countless plays, vaudeville shows, light operas, and classical music programs. Elitch Theatre hosted the first screen-projected motion picture shown in Denver in 1896. Over the years, many notable performers, including Sarah Bernhardt, Douglas Fairbanks, and Gloria Swanson, graced its stage. The amusement park relocated in 1995 leaving the theatre building as one of the few surviving historic elements in a residential and commercial redevelopment.



EMERSON THEATRE / SANDS THEATRE

211 Clayton St., Brush

State Register 9/14/2005, 5MR.764

The Emerson Theatre (now the Sands Theatre), with its V-shaped marquee sign, has continuously served as Brush's primary indoor public entertainment venue for almost nine decades. Started in 1916 by locally prominent citizen Charles W. Emerson, the building housed other small businesses off the lobby that provided food and tobacco for movie-goers. The current owner, Joe Machetta, ran the theater with much of the early equipment since 1958. The Sands Theatre continues to serve as a landmark to the Brush community.



FOX THEATER (Youth Center Theatre)

715 Main St., Walsenburg

State Register 11/9/1994, 5HF.1160

The Trinidad firm of I.H. Rapp and W.M. Rapp designed the theater for Paul Krier. Originally opened in 1917 as the Star, the Fox Inter-mountain theater chain purchased and remodeled the building in 1941 and gave this mainstay of community entertainment a modern Art Deco appearance, and a new name.



GRAND THEATRE

405 S. Main St., Rocky Ford

State Register 9/10/1997, 5OT.577

Constructed in 1935, the Grand Theatre is important for its long-term use as a local entertainment center and for its ability to convey changes in movie theater design. Its modernized facade, neon marquee, and portions of the lobby area date from 1950, while much of the original 1935 Art Deco interior detailing remains intact.



HIPPODROME THEATRE

215 Cedar St., Julesburg

State Register 12/8/1999, 5SW.76

The 1919 Hippodrome Theatre was Julesburg's first theater building constructed specifically for the exhibition of motion pictures, and it continues in that use. The building typifies the fantasy architecture of many small town and neighborhood theaters constructed before 1930. The terra cotta facade and embedded electric lights allowed the theater to glow at night.

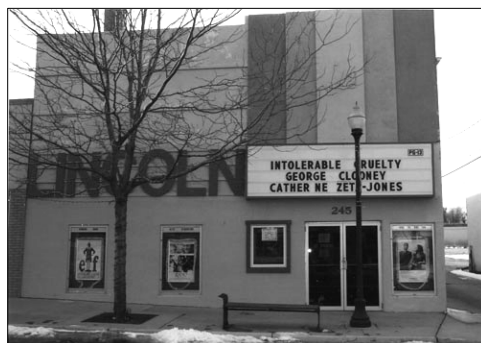


LINCOLN THEATRE

245 E Ave., Limon

State Register 3/10/2004, 5LN.327

The Lincoln Theatre is Limon's longest surviving movie theatre. Opening in 1938 as the Cactus Theatre before assuming the Lincoln name in 1949, the theatre has operated continuously to the present.



OGDEN THEATRE

935 E. Colfax Ave., Denver
National Register 8/31/1995, 5DV.2609

Denver architect Harry W.J. Edbrooke designed the two-story brick Mediterranean style building. John Thompson and J.A. Goodridge, primary owners of the International Amusement Company, constructed, owned, and operated the Ogden as one of their three theatres in the fashionable Capitol Hill neighborhood during the 1910s. A 1917 example of the neighborhood motion picture theaters constructed nationwide during the first decades of the 20th century, it closed in 1990 and a new owner renovated it in 1994 for live musical performances.



ORIENTAL THEATER

4329-39 West 44th Ave. Denver
State Register 9/10/1997, National Register 9/26/1997,
5DV.5141

The 1927 neighborhood movie theater provided several generations of north Denver citizens with an inexpensive local recreational opportunity. Architecturally, the building is a good example of neighborhood movie theater design, particularly of the type using Exotic Revival themes. Denver architect Leo Desjardins designed the building and the National Theater Supply Company, under the direction of Paul Randolph, executed the interior.



ORPHEUM THEATER

409-415 E. Main St., Buena Vista
State Register 9/13/1995, 5CF.830

The 1910 Orpheum Theater served as the home of cultural functions in Buena Vista, including operas, plays and musicals, and was the center for the town's important public gatherings and social events.



PARAMOUNT THEATRE

1621 Glenarm Pl., Denver
National Register 11/21/1980, 5DV.190

Temple H. Buell, a well-known Denver architect, designed the exterior of the 1930 Paramount Theatre. The Art Deco style theatre stands as the last remaining "movie palace" in the metropolitan area. The prolific Chicago architectural firm of George Rapp and C.W. Rapp designed the magnificent interior. Rapp and Rapp also designed the now demolished Denver Theatre across 16th Street from the Paramount. Designed in the period of silent films and opened as sound motion pictures became the rage, the theatre bridges the gap between two entertainment eras. The Paramount houses the only Publix One Wurlitzer theatre organ to be equipped with twin consoles.



PARK THEATRE

130 Moraine Ave., Estes Park

National Register 6/14/1984, 5LR.999

Begun in 1913 and fully completed in 1915, from a design by J.R. Anderson, its eighty-foot tower and theatrical detailing make the theatre one of this tourist community's most prominent commercial structures. *(Photograph courtesy of the Historic Park Theatre)*



RIALTO THEATER

207-209 West Main St., Florence

State Register 3/10/1993, 5FN.624

Constructed in 1923 of locally made yellow bricks, this two-story building features unusual multi-colored brickwork patterns enhanced by designs in natural colored slate. Between 1923 and 1975, the Rialto hosted numerous cultural events, plays, shows, and melodramas. It was the only movie house to serve the town and the surrounding communities.



RIALTO THEATER

228-230 E. Fourth Ave., Loveland

National Register 2/17/1988, 5LR.1058

The building derives its architectural distinction from its Classical Revival facade. Designed by Denver architect Robert K. Fuller, the visual landmark in downtown Loveland opened in 1920. It closed in 1977 and reopened as a retail mini-mall. The city purchased the building in 1987, and along with the Friends of the Rialto Inc. and the Loveland Downtown Development Authority, used \$214,185 in State Historical Fund grant funding and other financial support to convert the building into a 450-seat performing arts center.



SHERBINO BUILDING / THEATER

604 N. Clinton, Ridgway

State Register 8/14/1991, 5OR.1368

Significant for its role in the social and cultural heritage of the town of Ridgway, Gus Kullerstrand designed the simple one-story brick building built in 1915 by Louis Sherbino. Over the years, it functioned as a movie theater, a dance hall, a skating rink, and a community center. For a time it housed the Ridgway Post Office. In 1968, a boardwalk shielded with a fiberglass shingled roof was added in order to accommodate the filming of the movie "True Grit." Although the theater stage is now gone, most of the interior remains intact.



TRU-VU DRIVE IN

1001 Colo. Hwy. 92, Delta
State Register 3/10/1999, 5DT.1222

Opened in 1954, this still operating drive-in movie theater is a rare surviving example of this particular type of automobile-oriented entertainment venue. Of the 81 drive-in theaters constructed in Colorado between 1947 and 1976, only 12 remained in operation as of 1999. The Tru-Vu has undergone few modifications and retains a high degree of physical integrity.



AUDITORIUMS

CENTRAL SCHOOL AUDITORIUM AND GYMNASIUM

612 First Ave., Monte Vista
National Register 3/14/1996, 5RN.521

A 1938 project supported by the school district, town leaders and a Works Progress Administration grant resulted in a building used for school and sports functions as well as an auditorium for public gatherings. It is the largest auditorium in the San Luis Valley continuing to serve in the same capacity for which it was built. It is the singular Monte Vista example of the work of prominent architect Charles E. Thomas incorporating Mission Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Romanesque elements.



CHAUTAUQUA AUDITORIUM

Chautauqua Park, Boulder
National Register 1/21/1974, 5BL.362

Denver architects Franklin E. Kidder and Eugene R. Rice designed the auditorium erected in 1898. Generations of Boulder residents and visitors have enjoyed the educational, cultural, and entertainment programs held in the facility.



COLORADO SPRINGS CITY AUDITORIUM

231 E. Kiowa St., Colorado Springs
National Register 11/7/1995, 5EP.628

This 1922 building represents the culmination of the city's efforts to create a large, multi-purpose meeting and entertainment facility. A collaborative effort by three of Colorado Springs' most prominent and prolific architects—Charles E. Thomas, Thomas MacLaren, and T. Duncan Hetherington—the auditorium is the last of the classically-inspired civic buildings constructed in the city. A Works Progress Administration project funded two lobby murals in 1935. Archie Musick painted "Hardrock Miners" and Tabor Utley contributed "The Arts."



**DENVER MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM
(Ellie Caulkins Opera House and
Quigg Newton Denver Municipal Auditorium)**

1323 Champa St.

National Register 10/16/1991, 5DV.521

Completed in 1908, Denver architect Robert Willison designed this Renaissance Revival style arena/theater. Constructed of buff brick, the three-story terracotta trimmed building featured prominent corner towers topped with cupolas. When completed, the massive 246 by 145 foot building was second only to New York's Madison Square Garden in size. Associated with Denver's City Beautiful movement, the completion of the building marked the high point of Mayor Robert W. Speer's first term in office. The Democratic Party held its 1908 national convention in the building. The city expanded the 1940 annex in 1950. Denver voters in 2002 passed a \$25 million general obligation to convert the auditorium into an opera house. Additional funding came from existing seat tax revenues, grants from the State Historical Fund, and private donations and pledges. The family of Denver businessman George Caulkins donated \$7 million to finance additions to the auditorium renovation project. The new venue inside the building is named in honor of Eleanor Newman Caulkins, known to family and friends as Ellie and as Denver's "first lady of opera." The new facility reopened in 2006 as a continuing component of the Denver Performing Arts Complex. *(Circa 1915 photograph by Oscar E. Lindvall)*



AMPHITHEATERS

COLORADO AMPHITHEATER

15001 Denver West Pkwy., Camp George West, Golden
National Register 5/20/1993, 5JF.842.1

Located on the south side of South Table Mountain, the Works Progress Administration constructed the amphitheater during 1933-35. With an estimated 2,500 seats, it is the second largest of only four known historic open-air amphitheaters in Colorado. The WPA built the fieldstone and concrete seating area on the natural slope below the mesa's edge. It forms an inverted U-shape flanked by stone walls. *(Photograph taken shortly after completion)*



MORAINE PARK MUSEUM AND AMPHITHEATER

Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park vicinity
National Register 10/8/1976 5LR.477

Constructed in 1923, the log museum building sits on a foundation of uncoursed rubblestone. The lodge served as the central building of a summer resort until the National Park Service converted it to a museum in 1931. The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the amphitheater that opened in August 1937. The naturalist design utilized the natural bowl site, retained and enhanced native plantings, used rustic materials such as wood and stone, included a fire circle, and focused the view across Moraine Park. By holding interpretive programs at amphitheatres, park naturalists reached large audiences.



RED ROCKS PARK / MOUNT MORRISON CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CAMP

16351 County Rd. 93, Morrison
National Register 5/18/1990, 5JF.442

In 1929, the City of Denver began constructing a five-mile stretch of winding scenic road that wound through the rock formations of Red Rocks Park. W.R. Rouche designed the 1931 Pueblo Revival style "Indian Concession House." During the Great Depression, George Cranmer, manager of improvement and parks for the City of Denver, utilized the Civilian Conservation Corp in the construction of a large outdoor amphitheater that harmonizes with the surrounding natural landscape. Denver architect Burhnam Hoyt produced the plans for the seating, stone steps and walls and the stage. The amphitheater was completed in 1941. The camp that housed the CCC men remains intact within the district. *(Circa 1940 photograph courtesy of City and County of Denver)*

