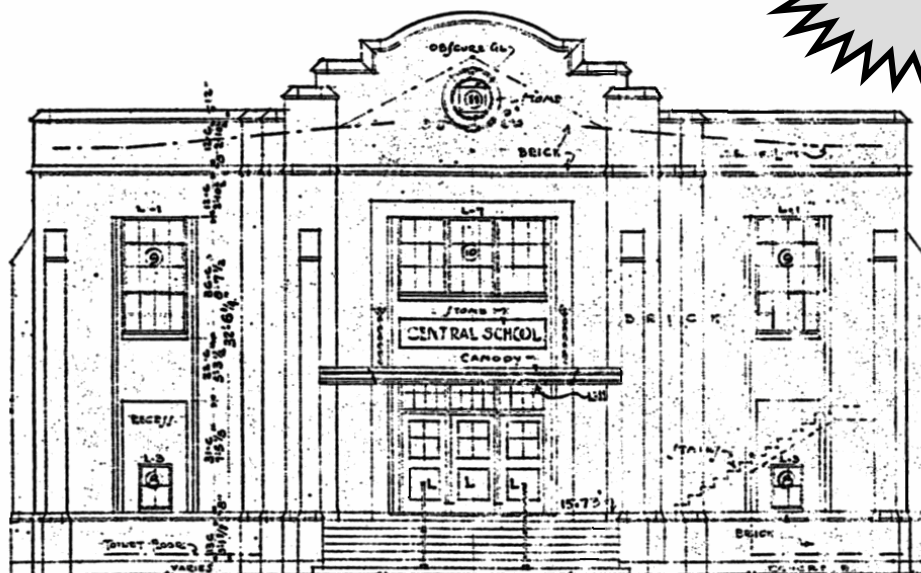


# THE NEW DEAL

IN

# COLORADO

1933-1942



PROPERTIES LISTED  
IN THE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

OR THE

**COLORADO STATE REGISTER**  
*of HISTORIC PROPERTIES*

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Updated Through August 2007



OFFICE *of* ARCHAEOLOGY *and* HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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***Cover Illustration:***

***Monte Vista Central School Auditorium facade drawing  
by its architect, Charles E. Thomas.***

## **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.

There are no restrictions imposed by the Colorado Historical Society as to what private property owners may or may not do with their State Register-listed property. 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.

## DIRECTORY PROPERTY LISTING FORMAT

Format:

### HISTORIC NAME/NAMES

(Current name)

Address or location

Designation Type, Date, Site Number

Significance statement

Example:

### ALMA SCHOOL

59 E. Buckskin St., Alma, Park County

State Register 12/11/1996, 5PA.871

The 1925 Alma School, a rare local example of the Mission Revival style, is significant as a symbol of the importance of education to the area's residents. The Public Works Administration funded building additions, designed by Frank Frewen, in 1936.

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 at 303-866-3392.

# THE NEW DEAL IN COLORADO

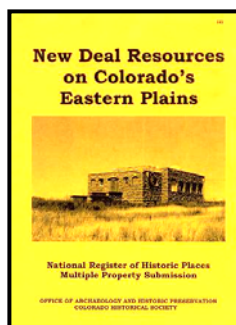
## 1933-1942

The year 2008 marks the beginning of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the New Deal. This series of relief and recovery programs initiated by President Franklin Roosevelt aimed to move America out of the Great Depression of the 1930s and to provide meaningful work and income for the nation's thousands of unemployed. The New Deal had its detractors and the effectiveness of the economic stimulation is still hotly debated. Yet, whatever its immediate successes and failures, the New Deal put countless Coloradans to work. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration alone once supported nearly a quarter of the state's population. The Works Progress Administration at its peak employed more than 40,000 Coloradans.

The New Deal achieved much more than providing some measure of relief from economic want. The diverse programs left a vast legacy of buildings and structures throughout Colorado. As historian Stephen Leonard summarized in *Trails and Triumphs* (1993), "Through luck and skill Colorado grabbed far more than its share of the federal pie. By using Uncle Sam's money, the state built an infrastructure that undergirded its economic boom during and after World War II."

Programs such as the Civil Works Administration, the Works Progress Administration, and the Public Works Administration constructed or financed hundreds of schools, community buildings, courthouses, parks, roads and bridges across Colorado. The Resettlement Administration and the Farm Security Administration moved farm families from the worst of the Dust Bowl counties and resettled them in areas of the state less affected by drought. The Civilian Conservation Corps put thousands of young men to work on conservation and recreation building projects in local, state and national parks. The Bureau of Reclamation launched major irrigation construction programs during the 1930s, the largest being the Colorado-Big Thompson and the John Martin Reservoir projects.

Many of the buildings and structures constructed in Colorado by men and women as part of various New Deal programs have been lost to the effects of time, obsolescence and demolition. Others are threatened and in immediate need of physical restoration or rehabilitation. Still more of the New Deal legacy remains intact, continuing to serve local communities while reminding us all of the tough times of the 1930s and the collective response of America and Colorado. The properties highlighted in this publication have received recognition for their association with the New Deal and the Coloradans who designed, built and used them.



**A history of the New Deal on Colorado's Eastern Plains is available on the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation website at: [www.coloradohistory-oahp.org/publications/contexts.htm](http://www.coloradohistory-oahp.org/publications/contexts.htm)**

# FEDERAL EMERGENCY RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) came into existence on May 12, 1933. One of the first programs created during the “First Hundred Days” of President Roosevelt’s new administration, FERA provided direct relief payments to the unemployed, and eventually grew to include work relief programs. Congress initially appropriated \$500 million to be given as grants to state emergency relief administrations. Harry L. Hopkins, the federal administrator of FERA, sent telegrams to seven states, including Colorado, informing them that aid was on the way the first day after he was authorized to inaugurate operations. All states were required to match FERA’s grants, and this proved to be a troubling issue for Colorado. The Twenty-ninth Colorado General Assembly, known as the “Twiddling Twenty-ninth,” failed to raise matching FERA funds. Despite the lack any matching funds, Hopkins continued to send the state more than two-thirds of a million dollars per month through mid-summer 1933. Even after the state legislature’s adjournment, Hopkins still sent approximately \$500,000 per month with the hope that Colorado would soon provide its match.

Harry Hopkins threatened to halt all FERA operations in Colorado at the end of 1933, operations which then topped 85 percent of all relief in the state. Although Governor Edwin C. Johnson appealed to Hopkins to continue FERA aid, the Colorado State Relief Committee refused to join in his petition. With no state funding in sight, Hopkins halted all FERA relief assistance to Colorado on December 31, 1933. In early 1934, the General Assembly finally passed a bill diverting highway funds and increasing the gasoline tax to provide the necessary matching funds. FERA relief money flowed again to Colorado. Angry over what he viewed as constant interference by the federal government in administering FERA in Colorado, Governor Johnson moved to withhold the state’s matching funds in early 1934. When Hopkins renewed threats to terminate federal assistance, Johnson demanded the removal of the regional FERA director. All the while, FERA continued to fund all relief activities in the state while waiting for the state’s new gasoline tax revenues to materialize. The state and federal officials eventually ironed out their differences and the state was able to provide its share in the fall of 1934.

FERA relief money was intended to provide for the “subsistence” needs of a family in specific geographic areas. The local relief agency estimated the minimum monthly income requirements. The amount of FERA relief given to families varied considerably from state to state and from county to county. The average relief payment in the United States at the start of FERA was \$14.13 per month, increasing to \$28.13 by January 1935. In Colorado, relief payments averaged about \$10 per family at the beginning, dropped to a low of \$5.20 in January 1934, and then gradually rose to a little more than \$20 per month later that year.

FERA did more than establish early partnerships between the federal government and state and local governments for providing direct relief. A rural rehabilitation program sought to meet the special needs of destitute American farmers. The Federal Surplus Relief Corporation purchased surplus farm products and transferred them to FERA for distribution to those in need. FERA also set up a work relief program within the rural rehabilitation program. The projects aimed to conserve skills and work habits while maintaining the morale of the participants by matching the unemployed with work suited to their abilities. In Loveland, FERA projects including library renovations, ballpark improvements, and the construction of bridges across irrigation ditches. Sterling resurfaced streets and modernized its airport. The town of Las Animas put in a storm sewer and Brush landscaped a six-acre addition to its cemetery.

Despite the many agency sponsored work relief projects, the majority of FERA payments went for direct relief. Following Roosevelt’s expressed desire to get out of the “business” of the dole, FERA gradually phased out its operations, making its last payments to Colorado in December

1935. Despite an uneven record of accomplishments, FERA helped to feed, clothe, and house one-fourth of the state's population during the desperate period of 1933 through 1935. Many local projects begun under FERA continued under other New Deal programs, most notably those of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration.

**COLORADO STATE FAIRGROUNDS**

1001 Beulah Avenue  
State Register 11/30/2006, 5PE.552  
[See Works Progress Administration]

**EAST HIGH SCHOOL**

1545 Detroit St.  
National Register 7/27/2006, 5DV.2091

East High School opened in 1925 as an important part of a city-wide campaign to modernize, beautify, and promote aesthetic planning and design in schools and other public buildings in keeping with the City Beautiful movement. In its revivalist design and careful siting, East High School epitomizes the City Beautiful ethic. The building is a finely executed example of English Jacobean Revival or Jacobethan Revival style architecture as designed by the important Denver architect, George Williamson. He chose the accessible and open Jacobean style in part due to its ability to accommodate large scale window treatments considered essential to state-of-the-art educational buildings. The library interior retains a mural painted in 1934 by Hugh Weller as part of the Depression-era Public Works Art Project program. *(Photograph 2006)*



**KIM SCHOOLS**

425 State St., Kim  
National Register 4/24/2007, 5LA.1815  
[See Works Progress Administration]

**WILLOW CREEK PARK**

Memorial Drive, Parkview Ave. and Willow Valley Rd., Lamar  
National Register 8/10/2007, 5PW.56  
[See Civil Works Administration]



# **PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION**

The Public Works Administration (PWA) is often confused with the more prolific Works Progress Administration (WPA), both unemployment relief programs under President Franklin Roosevelt's self-proclaimed New Deal administration. While the WPA hired the unemployed to work on a wide variety of public infrastructure and betterment projects, the PWA provided grants and loans to supplement local funding for the construction and expansion of schools, colleges, libraries, town halls, courthouses and other public buildings. Most PWA-type projects required skilled laborers, as opposed to WPA projects which hired greater numbers of unskilled workers.

The PWA was created under Title II of the June 16, 1933 National Industrial Recovery Act. The purpose of the act was to encourage industrial recovery, to foster fair competition, and to provide for the construction of certain useful public works. A temporary organization for the inauguration of the public works program was set up in Washington. State committees were formed to gather preliminary data on proposed projects, and these were turned over to the permanent organization as soon as it was completed. Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes was appointed federal emergency administrator of public works on July 8, 1933. O.L. Chapman of Colorado, assistant secretary of the interior, served as executive secretary of the temporary and then permanent organization. George M. Bull of Denver was appointed PWA engineer for Colorado on August 12, 1933.

Harold Ickes carefully reviewed each funding application. As a result, the PWA failed to quickly release the significant amounts of money through which President Roosevelt hoped to stimulate the nation's economy. As a stop-gap measure, the Civil Works Administration (CWA) was created under Harry Hopkins to quickly fund PWA-eligible projects until the PWA began functioning more effectively.

## **ADAMS COUNTY COURTHOUSE (Brighton City Hall)**

22 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Brighton

State Register 8/31/2006, 5AM.92

The 1906 Adams County Courthouse is an excellent local example of the Classical Revival style. The courthouse exhibits such key elements as a prominent pedimented portico with Tuscan columns, pilasters, and keystones in the window lintels along with a wide frieze and prominent cornice. The building is a direct result of the creation of Adams County in 1902 and the election of Brighton as the county seat. By 1939, Adams County had outgrown the existing building and the county received money for an expansion project through the Public Works Administration, one of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs. Denver architects Richard O. Parry and Lester L. Jones designed an addition that nearly doubled the size of the building and used the same local materials found on the original portion—green glazed brick on the foundation and red pressed brick for the walls. Windows were also copied from the original building. The building housed the county's governing board and administrative offices, the courts and judicial offices, the sheriff's office and jail, and public meeting rooms. Much of the county's early legal precedents were set here. In the mid-1970s, the county moved to a new building and Brighton purchased the facility for city offices.

**ALMA SCHOOL**

59 E. Buckskin St., Alma, Park County  
State Register 12/11/1996, 5PA.871

The 1925 Alma School, a rare local example of the Mission style, is significant as a symbol of the importance of education to the area's residents. The Public Works Administration funded building additions, designed by Frank Frewen, in 1936.

**COLORADO-BIG THOMPSON PROJECT  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

850 N. St. Vrain Ave.  
State Register 06/10/1998, 5LR.485  
[See Bureau of Reclamation]

**COLORADO STATE CAPITOL ANNEX AND  
BOILER PLANT**

1341 Sherman St., Denver  
National Register 6/24/1991, 5DV.3844

The Capitol Annex benefited from two Depression era Federal programs—the Public Works Administration and the Works Progress Administration. The former program provided part of the funding for this two building complex. Colorado artists from the Fine Arts Project of the WPA adorned the building with works of art. The 1939-41 building is an important example of Art Deco architecture typical of Denver in the late 1930s. Prominent Denver architect G. Meredith Musick served as president of the Associated Architects for the State Capitol Annex, the collaboration responsible for the design of both buildings.

**CENTRAL SCHOOL AUDITORIUM AND GYMNASIUM**

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

A 1938 project supported by the school district, town leaders and a PWA 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 that continues to serve in the same capacity for which it was built. It is the only Monte Vista example of the work of prominent architect Charles E. Thomas incorporating Mission, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Romanesque elements. The PWA grant provided 45 percent of the building's cost and WPA workers were involved in some aspects of the project.

**FAIRPLAY SCHOOL**

639 Hathaway St.  
State Register 12/8/1999, 5PA.58

The building represents, both physically and intellectually, the growth and evolution of public education in the South Park area of Park County. The original Italianate style portion was constructed in 1881, and it has remained in use as a public educational facility ever since. The 1934 Moderne style gymnasium/classroom addition, partially funded by the Public Works Administration, was designed by

prominent Denver architect Frank Frewen Jr. Subsequent additions were constructed in 1947 and 1985.

### **MORaine LODGE**

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

Constructed in 1923, the log building sits on a foundation of uncoursed rubblestone. The lodge originally served as the central building of a summer resort. The National Park Service purchased the lodge in 1931. The PWA funded a major interior remodeling of the building in 1934 which converted the building into the park's primary museum.

### **MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND JAIL**

225 Ensign and 218 W. Kiowa  
Fort Morgan, Morgan County  
State Register 3/13/2002  
National Register 4/1/2002, 5MR.466

In the midst of the Great Depression, the county commissioners took advantage of a federal construction grant from the Public Works Administration to match county funds toward the erection of a new courthouse to replace a 1907 building. The 1936 courthouse is a good example of the Art Deco style and an important work by the major Colorado architect Eugene G. Groves. During the lean Depression years, Groves stayed busy completing commissions on several PWA-funded projects. The 1921 jail replaced the original 1898 facility.



### **PUEBLO CITY PARK ZOO**

3455 Nuckolls Ave., Pueblo, Pueblo County  
National Register 7/28/1995, 5PE.587  
[See Works Progress Administration]

### **RIM ROCK DRIVE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Colorado National Monument  
Grand Junction vicinity  
National Register 4/21/1994, 5ME.5944  
[See Civilian Conservation Corps]

### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK UTILITY AREA HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Beaver Meadows, Rocky Mountain National Park,  
Estes Park vicinity, Larimer County  
National Register 3/18/1982, 5LR.487

The utility area reflects the National Park Service's concern for blending structures with the natural environment. The half-log and plank buildings, begun in 1923 at the Beaver Meadows Entrance, were completed during the 1930s. The PWA funded construction of several buildings in 1933-34. These included the concrete old machine shop, an equipment shed, the mess hall, a warehouse addition (now the annex) and a fire equipment storehouse and garage.

**LESLIE J. SAVAGE LIBRARY**

Western State College  
 Gunnison, Gunnison County  
 State Register 3/10/1993, 5GN.2366

The library is an excellent example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style as executed by Temple Hoyne Buell, a prominent Denver architect, developer, and philanthropist. The library was constructed in 1939 on the campus of the State Normal School for Western State College (now Western State College) with the aid of Public Works Administration funds. In 1964, a newer three-story building was attached to the northeast corner of the original library by way of a one-story corridor.



**VETERINARY MEDICINE BUILDING, COLORADO STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANICAL ARTS (Building #84, J.V.K. Wagar Building)**

1101 West Dr., Colorado State University Campus  
 Fort Collins, Larimer County  
 State Register 8/11/1999, 5LR.2092

Designed by two important Colorado architects, Frank W. Frewen and Earl C. Morris, the 1939 building, with its 1957 addition, has a long association with Dr. I. E. Newsom and agricultural education at the college. From its construction in 1939 through 1979, the building contained the classrooms and laboratories of the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology. The Public Works Administration partially funded the construction.

**UNION HIGH SCHOOL**

3455 W. 72nd Ave., Westminster, Adams County  
 National Register 1/14/2000, 5AM.895

Constructed in 1929, the two-story, blond brick Union High School served as the first high school for the Westminster community. It functioned in that capacity from 1929 until 1949. In 1939, the school district constructed the gymnasium and classroom addition by taking advantage of Public Works Administration funding. The building is now used as an alternative education center.

**U.S. CUSTOM HOUSE / FEDERAL BUILDING**

721 19<sup>th</sup> St.  
 National Register 10/16/1979, 5DV.153

The N.P. Severin Company of Chicago erected the building in 1931 under the direction of James A. Wetmore, architectural supervisor for the Treasury Department. The walls of the Italian Renaissance Revival style building are of smooth-rubbed, course cut Colorado Yule marble. The Public Works Administration financed a large 1937 addition designed by Denver architects Temple H. Buell and G. Meredith Musick. Various government agencies have been housed in the building, but its primary tenant was the U.S. Custom Service.

# CIVIL WORKS ADMINISTRATION

The Civil Works Administration (CWA) was created late in 1933 to help ease unemployment through federal-funded local construction projects. The program was created after a similar program, the Public Works Administration, proved unable to gear up quickly enough to release its federal funds in the winter of 1933-34. The CWA, under Harry Hopkins, who later became the administrator of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), immediately funded a number of construction projects across the nation to put at least some of the country's unemployed to work. The CWA ended its operations within a year and was absorbed into the PWA.

## **KIM SCHOOLS**

425 State St., Kim  
National Register 4/24/2007, 5LA.1815  
[See Works Progress Administration]

## **LA JUNTA CITY PARK**

Colorado Ave. and 10<sup>th</sup> St., La Junta  
National Register 4/24/2007, 5OT.937  
[See Works Progress Administration]

## **NUNN MUNICIPAL HALL**

### **(Northern Drylanders Museum)**

755 Third St., Nunn, Weld County  
State Register 3/10/1999, 5WL.2114

Constructed in 1933-1934 as a Civil Works Administration project, the two-story building, of painted concrete housed the police station, fire department, and town clerk. Community dinners, school activities, and various other family gatherings took place in the building. No longer used as a town hall, the building is now a community museum.



## **PUEBLO CITY PARK ZOO**

3455 Nuckolls Ave., Pueblo, Pueblo County  
National Register 7/28/1995, 5PE.587  
[See Public Works Administration]

## **WILLOW CREEK PARK**

Memorial Drive, Parkview Ave. and Willow Valley Rd., Lamar  
National Register 8/10/2007, 5PW.56

The park is associated with several Great Depression era federal relief programs. Constructed between 1933 and 1938 under the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), creation of the park provided a source of employment in Lamar during much of the Depression. Willow Creek Park was Colorado's first CWA project and the first planned park in Lamar, providing a location for active and passive recreation activities. A prominent feature of the city, the park's buildings and stone features are good examples of the Rustic style as interpreted by New Deal agencies. Characteristics include the use of native stone; traditional construction methods; evident hand craftsmanship; and simple functional design. (*Photograph 2006*)



# CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) sought to provide useful employment for the nation's growing ranks of unemployed young men. The thousands of park, forest conservation, and reclamation projects performed by the CCC not only created much needed employment for millions of unemployed single young men, the program also contributed to their education and the development of job skills. The education and training CCC participants received improved their literacy and produced skilled technicians in a number of fields. It prepared the young men for future work in the military, in factories, and on farms.



Men received clothing and food and were paid \$1 a day, of which \$25 per month was sent to the enrollee's family. Army personnel generally ran the camps with other agencies planning and sometimes supervising the projects. These agencies included the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and the Soil Conservation Service. The Emergency Conservation Works (ECW) was also an affiliated agency. Many CCC park and conservation projects included elements carried out by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). After 1939, many young men left the CCC to enter military service. The WPA often completed the unfinished CCC projects.

## **BEAR CREEK CANYON SCENIC MOUNTAIN DRIVE**

Colo. Hwy. 74, Morrison, Jefferson County  
National Register 11/15/1990, 5JF.642

This linear district runs for two miles along Colorado Highway 74 between the towns of Morrison and Idledale. The route is noted for its enclosing granite cliffs and diverse vegetation. During the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps raised the bed of the original Denver Motor Club Road. The project involved the construction of six large retaining walls, rising up to 20 feet in height along the edge of the roaring creek.

## **BEAR LAKE COMFORT STATION**

Rocky Mountain National Park  
Estes Park vicinity, Larimer County  
National Register 1/29/1988, 5LR.531

The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed a number of buildings and structures in Rocky Mountain National Park during the 1930s. The Bear Lake Comfort Station represents a modest structure exhibiting the use of uncoursed rubblestone indicative of the Rustic Style employed by the CCC. The Rustic Style may be characterized by its use of native materials to blend in with the natural surroundings.

## **BUCHTEL BOULEVARD**

University Boulevard to Monroe  
State Register 8/12/1992, 5DV.2943

Named for and dedicated to Henry A. Buchtel, governor of Colorado and chancellor of the University of Denver, Buchtel Boulevard opened for traffic in 1926. The Civilian Conservation Corps planted most of the trees and other vegetation. The boulevard figured in the pre-World War II

development of the University Park Neighborhood, providing a natural area with trees, prairie grasses and wildflowers.

**COLORADO STATE FAIRGROUNDS**

1001 Beulah Avenue  
State Register 11/30/2006, 5PE.552  
[See Works Progress Administration]

**KATHERINE CRAIG PARK**

US Hwy. 40/I-70, northwest of Morrison  
Jefferson County  
National Register 6/30/1995, 5JF.979

Although included by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. in his Mountain Park System Plan of 1914, the land was not acquired until 1935. The park served as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp from 1937 to 1941. Surviving buildings and foundations date from this period.

**ECHO LAKE PARK**

Colo. Hwy. 103 & Colo. Hwy. 5  
Idaho Springs vicinity, Clear Creek County  
National Register 2/24/1995, 5CC.646

Echo Lake Park, established in 1921 at the foot of Goliath Peak, contains an impressive Rustic style lodge designed by prominent Denver architect J.J.B. Benedict. Two other structures, the stone pavilion and the concession stand, represent the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

**FALL RIVER ENTRANCE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Rocky Mountain National Park  
Estes Park vicinity, Larimer County  
National Register 1/29/1988, 5LR.1184

This collection of three Rustic Style log buildings was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936. The residence building particularly reflects the design characteristics of the style with its uncoursed native stone foundation, log construction, multi-light windows, wood shingle roof, and native stone chimney.

**DEVILS KITCHEN PICNIC SHELTER**

Colorado National Monument  
Grand Junction vicinity, Mesa County  
National Register 4/21/1994, 5ME.1173

Constructed in 1941 with Emergency Conservation Works funding, the Rustic style shelter is significant for its association with the CCC and WPA. Built of locally quarried sandstone, to serve as a comfort station and picnic shelter, it is the only such structure in Colorado National Monument. Because of its size and unusual design, it is atypical when compared with picnic shelters found in other National Park Service properties.

**GENESEE PARK**

26771 Genesee Ln., Golden vicinity, Jefferson County  
National Register 11/15/1990, 5JF.590

Beginning in 1913, a series of land acquisitions resulted in this approximately 2,400-acre park. Genesee Mountain

reaches an altitude of 8,200 feet, and numerous deep canyons, mountainous ridges, valleys, and gorges are among the natural features. Completed in 1914, Genesee Mountain Road winds up to the Genesee Game Preserves located on the mountain's western side. Other manmade features include a circa 1860, two-story wood frame residence built by the John D. Patrick family, operators of an early toll road. Other, primarily stone, buildings of note are the circa 1917 Rustic style Chief Hosa Lodge and picnic shelter designed by the prominent Denver architect J.J.B. Benedict. Between 1937 and 1941, the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the Genesee Shelter House, also designed by Benedict.



### **GLADE RANGER STATION**

Dove Creek vicinity

State Register 8/8/2001, 5DL.1792

Pre-dating 1910, the station is one of the oldest U.S. Forest Service administrative sites in Colorado. Extensively remodeled by the Civilian Conservation Corps during 1935-36, the station was part of the campaign of natural resources enhancement undertaken during the New Deal era. The five wood-frame buildings comprising the station reflect the Forest Service's ideals of simplicity, harmony with nature, and use of natural materials.

### **LAND'S END OBSERVATORY**

Land's End Rd., 10 Miles west of Highway 65 Whitewater vicinity, Mesa County

National Register 2/28/1997, 5ME.4936

[See Works Progress Administration]

### **LITTLE PARK**

Colo. Hwy. 74, Idledale vicinity, Jefferson County

National Register 2/24/1995, 5JF.977

Little Park joined the Denver Mountain Park system in 1917. The unusual eight-sided stone shelter house was designed by Denver architect J.J.B. Benedict and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Its Rustic style design utilized native stone and timber to blend into the natural setting.

### **MONUMENT NURSERY**

Off I-25, two miles west of Monument

El Paso County

State Register 6/12/1996, 5EP.593

Monument Nursery, on the eastern edge of Pike National Forest, is associated with the evolving management philosophy of the United States Forest Service. From 1907 until 1965, the nursery produced and shipped an average of two million trees annually for planting in National Forests throughout the Rocky Mountain West. The site includes remains of the original 1907-09 headquarters and a Memorial Grove established in 1920. The existing headquarters complex was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1934 and 1942.



**PUEBLO MOUNTAIN PARK**

S. Pine Dr., 1 mile south of County Rd. 220  
 Beulah vicinity, Pueblo County  
 National Register 12/6/1994, 5PE.1663

Begun in 1919, Pueblo Mountain Park is an early municipally owned automobile oriented, mountain park designed to offer Pueblo area residents easily accessible recreational facilities outside the urban environment. Most of the park's Rustic style picnic, lodging, and sports facilities were constructed during the Great Depression by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration.

**RED ROCKS PARK / MT. MORRISON CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CAMP**

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

During the Great Depression, George Cranmer, Manager of Improvement and Parks in Denver, utilized the Civilian Conservation Corp in the construction of a large outdoor amphitheater that is in harmony with the surrounding natural landscape. The amphitheater was completed in 1941, and the camp that housed the men who built it remains intact within the district.

**RIM ROCK DRIVE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Colorado National Monument  
 Grand Junction vicinity, Mesa County  
 National Register 4/21/1994, 5ME.5944

Constructed between 1931 and 1950, the district is significant for its role in the development of automobile access and tourism in Colorado National Monument and its contribution to the local economy during the Great Depression. The district's contributing features are representative of National Park Service Rustic style architecture in their use of native building materials. Also significant for its engineering, Rim Rock Drive is considered to be the first modern road within the Monument and includes three stone tunnels blasted through solid rock that conform to the rugged terrain. Three Depression Era federal agencies participated in the construction project: the Public Works Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Works Progress Administration.

**SADDLEHORN CARETAKER'S HOUSE AND GARAGE**

Colorado National Monument  
 Grand Junction vicinity, Mesa County  
 National Register 4/21/1994, 5ME.1170

Built by the CCC in 1935 and 1936, as the first permanent buildings in Colorado National Monument, the caretaker's house and garage are significant for their association with public relief projects of the Great Depression. Constructed of sandstone blocks quarried locally, the buildings are excellent examples of National Park Service Rustic style architecture and reflect the craftsmanship of both CCC members and local workers, some of whom were reportedly stonemasons of Italian descent.

**SADDLEHORN COMFORT STATION**

Colorado National Monument  
 Grand Junction vicinity, Mesa County  
 National Register 4/21/1994, 5ME.1174

Built by the CCC in 1937, to accommodate the recreational needs of visitors to Colorado National Monument, the station is significant for its association with CCC and WPA relief programs during the Great Depression. It is a strong example of National Park Service Rustic style architecture.

**SADDLEHORN UTILITY AREA HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Colorado National Monument  
 National Register 4/21/1994, 5ME.7084

Significant for its association with the CCC and WPA, the district includes four good examples of National Park Service Rustic style architecture. The structures were constructed of locally quarried sandstone by the CCC with Emergency Conservation Works funding. The 1937 Roads and Trails Shop, 1938 Oil House, and 1941 Open Storage Building functioned as garages, warehouses, storage facilities, and maintenance buildings for the park. Completed in 1942, the Building and Utilities Shop housed the primary administrative offices for Colorado National Monument until 1963, when a Visitor Center was completed.

**SHADOW MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT**

Rocky Mountain National Park,  
 Grand Lake vicinity, Grand County  
 National Register 8/2/1978, 5GA.300

Located near the summit of Shadow Mountain, the lookout is the last of four fire detection towers constructed in the park during the Great Depression. Completed in 1933, the three-story lookout was reportedly built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Rustic style lookout consists of a concrete foundation, two lower stories of uncoursed rubblestone masonry, and a frame upper story. Because of its remote location, the construction of the tower was particularly difficult, with mules packing in many of the materials. It remained in use until 1968.

**STATE SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' HOME**

3749 Sherman Ave., Eastlake, Rio Grande County  
 State Register 9/13/1995, 5RN.441

Founded in 1891, the State Soldiers' and Sailors' Home is the oldest veterans' home in Colorado. The self-sufficient complex offered housing, recreational and religious facilities, and medical care. The property includes a collection of buildings encompassing the 100-year evolution of the facility as well as a cemetery, the final resting place of veterans who served from the Civil War through Vietnam. The WPA constructed numerous buildings at the home in the 1930s, including three apartment buildings and many cottages.



**TIMBER CREEK CAMPGROUND COMFORT STATION  
NO. 245**

Rocky Mountain National Park  
Grand Lake vicinity, Grand County  
National Register 1/29/1988, 5GA.1238

One of three comfort stations constructed in 1939, the 25 by 10 foot Rustic style building features board and batten walls with vertical, diagonal, and horizontal exterior bracing. Windows are wood framed, and the gabled roof is covered with wood shingles and has exposed log rafter ends.

**TIMBER CREEK CAMPGROUND COMFORT STATION  
NO. 246**

Rocky Mountain National Park  
Grand Lake vicinity, Grand County  
National Register 1/29/1988, 5GA.286

Constructed in 1939, the Rustic style comfort station was one of three built at the Timber Creek Campground at that time. Although the architect is unknown, it is assumed that it was designed by Howard W. Baker, who was responsible for many of the park's structures during the 1930s and 1940s.

**TIMBER CREEK CAMPGROUND COMFORT STATION  
NO. 247**

Rocky Mountain National Park  
Grand Lake vicinity, Grand County  
National Register 1/29/1988, 5GA.285

Constructed in 1939, the Rustic style comfort station was one of three built at the Timber Creek Campground at that time. Although the architect is unknown, as with stations No. 245 and 246, it is assumed that it was designed by Howard W. Baker.

**TRAIL RIDGE ROAD**

Rocky Mountain National Park  
Grand Lake vicinity, Grand and Larimer Counties  
National Register 11/14/1984, 5GA.307/5LR.502

Trail Ridge Road, deriving its name from the Ute route through the mountains, was begun in September of 1929 and completed in July of 1939. Featuring spectacular scenery, the road runs through the heart of Rocky Mountain National Park.

**WALKS CAMP PARK**

63551 County Rd. 27, Limon vicinity  
State Register 3/11/1998, 5LN.94

Since the creation of the Walks Camp Park Association in 1915, the agricultural community north of Limon has operated the park as a recreational complex. The 1930 Grandstand, exemplifying a basic design type common in the first half of the 20th century, provides spectator seating for sporting events and community celebrations. The Recreation Hall, moved to the park in 1944 from the former Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Hugo, is of typical CCC design and provides additional sheltered space for a variety of community functions.

# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

In 1933, the National Park Service, Department of the Interior established the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) following a proposal by Charles E. Peterson, a Park Service landscape architect. It was founded as a make-work program for architects, draftsmen and photographers left jobless by the Great Depression. Guided by field instructions from Washington, D.C., the first recorders were tasked with documenting a representative sampling of America's architectural heritage. By creating an archive of historic architecture, HABS provided a data base of primary source material for the then fledgling historic preservation movement.

The Original HABS mission statement stated, "...the survey shall cover structures of all types from the smallest utilitarian structures to the largest and most monumental. Buildings of every description are to be included so that a complete picture of the culture of the times as reflected in the buildings of the period may be put on record."

In 1934 the National Park Service entered into an agreement with the Library of Congress and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) as cosponsors of the HABS program. Under the agreement the National Park Service continues to set qualitative standards and direct the preparation of records; the Library preserves the records, makes them available for study, and supplies reproductions to the public upon request; and the AIA provides professional counsel.

During its first year of operation, the HABS staff recorded four properties in Colorado, three of which later were listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

## 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. It was built with funds raised by a citizens' group interested in bringing cultural opportunities to the area, the Gilpin County Opera House Association. Between 1910 and 1927, the building functioned as a motion picture theater. Donated to the University of Denver in 1931, the building was restored by the Central City Opera House Association to serve as a venue for an ongoing summer opera program. The HABS documentation was completed on January 24, 1934. (*HABS photograph of 1934*)

## TELLER HOUSE

Eureka Street, Central City

National Register 1/18/1973, 5GL.9

The Teller House was built by brothers Henry M. and Willard Teller during 1871-72. The four-story brick building was reported to be the largest and most elaborately furnished hotel located outside of Denver. It served as the gathering place for local society and visiting elite, including U.S. President Grant who visited in 1873. The first-floor bar with its well known "Face on the Barroom Floor" remains an attraction. Bernal Wells prepared the HABS documentation on January 25, 1934.



**FOUR MILE HOUSE**

715 S. Forest, Denver

National Register 12/3/1969, 5DV.7

With a portion dating from 1859, Four Mile House is Denver's earliest surviving structure. The location served as the last stage stop, before entering Denver, on the Wells Fargo Butterfield Stage route between El Paso and Denver. Over the years, the current U-shaped plan evolved as three buildings were butted together to accommodate changing needs. Together, the 1859 squared log, the circa 1860s wood frame, and the 1883 brick portions reflect the evolution of rural housing during the Denver area's early settlement period. The house and several adjacent agricultural buildings are now part of a living history museum known as Four Mile Historic Park. HABS produced nine sheets of architectural drawings of the complex in March 1934.

# WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Although the early programs of President Roosevelt's New Deal relieved the suffering of some Americans, as 1934 ended the economic depression and problems of unemployment continued. The Roosevelt administration proposed to create a broader relief and recovery program known as the "Second New Deal." Central to this new phase was a work relief program for the unemployed, established as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) on May 6, 1935. The WPA modified and expanded previous federal work relief to become the major source of public jobs for the unemployed during the latter part of the thirties.

The WPA sought to put the unemployed to work and remove them from the relief rolls. "Small useful projects" provided employment for a maximum number of needy "employable" workers in the "shortest time possible." The WPA construction projects were intended to provide employment to a large number of unskilled workers, but they also used skilled and semi-skilled workers. The WPA called for the majority of project costs to be wages rather than construction materials. The federal government paid virtually the entire expense of WPA projects, with relatively small sums supplied by sponsors making up the difference. The WPA eventually grew into the largest provider of work relief in the nation during the remainder of the Depression. The construction projects brought about the most widespread and significant change in public capital improvements ever witnessed by the state and nation.



The WPA provided temporary jobs for thousands of Colorado residents, both rural and urban, and resulted in the construction of public works projects in every county and virtually every community across the state. The agency formed the single largest construction and employment program in the state during the thirties.

By early November 1936, 9,000 Coloradans labored in WPA projects, and by late December more than 40,000 had received jobs. The numbers of WPA employed rose to 43,200 by March 1937, the peak of its working force in Colorado. Budget cuts brought periodic retrenchments, forcing the state program to cut back the number of jobs. Many of these occurred when Colorado experienced economic recession, such as in the summer of 1937. By early 1938, the unemployment and relief situation in Colorado nearly reached that of the desperate times of early 1933. With one in five people in the state on relief, Colorado WPA administrator Paul D. Shriver initiated an emergency work program and rehired 15,000 workers in early 1938. When the WPA finally received additional federal funds, the program expanded again, particularly in southern Colorado which had the highest percentage of unemployed in the state.

WPA construction projects made the greatest impact on reducing depression unemployment and on the improvement of the state's public infrastructure. Highways, roads and streets consumed 35 percent of WPA funds in Colorado. Other expenditures included 12 percent for buildings; 8 percent to water, sewer systems and other utilities; 6 percent on conservation projects and a similar percentage for airports and runways; 4 percent on recreational facilities (excluding buildings); 1.3 percent for sanitation; just under 1 percent used on engineering surveys; and 2.1 percent on all other projects.

Roads and public buildings constituted the bulk of WPA construction projects in Colorado. New and better roads allowed the state to take advantage of its tourist and recreational potential. Eastern Colorado came to depend on an essential network of WPA enhanced "farm to market"

roads for the recovery of its agricultural and ranching economy. Statewide, WPA workers built or improved over 9,400 miles of highways, roads or streets, nearly 3,400 bridges and viaducts, and more than 21,000 culverts.

Schools constituted another major category of WPA construction projects in Colorado. Schools in eastern Colorado were in particularly poor shape. Many districts had been unable to keep up with the enrollment growth of the first three decades of the twentieth century. The Depression halted all hopes of new construction and existing schools fell into disrepair. Many rural schools were crowded, outdated and unsafe. Throughout the state, the WPA newly built or expanded 113 schools. Additionally, the agency "reconstructed or improved" 381 schools.

The WPA erected or expanded a total of 583 public buildings across the state, and 764 other public buildings experienced reconstruction or improvements. WPA laborers built or improved 119 Colorado parks, 195 playground and athletic fields, and 32 swimming or wading pools. Public utility enhancement also constituted important WPA projects, particularly in smaller communities. The WPA constructed or improved 78 utility plants, 279 miles of water mains or distribution pipes, and 224 miles of new storm and sanitary sewers. Associated with the issue of sewage sanitation, but often constructed on private properties, the agency built an astounding 31,991 sanitary privies across the state.

While construction made up a large portion of WPA activities, non-construction service projects constituted wide variety of efforts providing employment women as well as white-collar professionals. Projects relating to adult education and the arts (including writing, music, performance, and the visual arts), as well as records and research projects provided jobs to people who had lost related work in similar professions. Rural women were given jobs sewing, gardening, canning, distributing commodities, and serving school hot lunches – thereby providing project employment for women while distributing the goods produced to the needy.

By the time it dismissed its last 1,700 employees in December 1942, the Colorado WPA program had given jobs to approximately 150,000 people statewide generating 195,518,207 worker hours. The federal government expended \$120,102,731 in Colorado, 89 percent going directly to wages. About 15 percent of the \$33,489,704 contributed by the sponsors went to wages. Colorado WPA workers received the highest wages paid by the agency nationwide, ranging from \$40 a month for non-skilled workers, to \$94 for skilled labor.

Statewide, the WPA expended \$1,644,458 for non-construction projects, the products and services produced went to needy Coloradans. WPA workers produced 6,730,092 garments and over 5 million quarts of preserved food. Others served over 22 million school hot lunches, placing Colorado in the top five in the nation. The majority of these service occurred in existing buildings, but occasionally a WPA construction project built a special purpose facility.

Of all the New Deal work relief programs resulting in the construction of public facilities, the WPA most impacted the built environment of the cities, towns, and small communities in hard hit eastern Colorado. While other New Deal programs assisted with soil conservation, farm subsidies, and loans – all of which helped the residents of the plains region to survive the decade – the WPA built the region's schools, roads, and public utilities. A majority of these resources remain in use – marking the many achievements made during a most difficult period of Colorado's history.

**ALAMOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

702 Fourth St., Alamosa, Alamosa County  
National Register 9/29/1995, 5AL.263

The U-shaped complex is one of the county's best examples of the Mission style. The courthouse was the largest of several WPA projects built in the county during the 1930s. Construction began in 1936. Using local clay and sand, more than 450,000 bricks were produced at a kiln located north of Alamosa. The courthouse continues to house a variety of county offices.

**AMMUNITION IGLOO**

15001 Denver W. Pkwy., Camp George West  
Golden, Jefferson County  
National Register 5/20/1993, 5JF.843

The Ammunition Igloo was constructed in 1940 as part of a WPA project and is also significant for its design. The bunker-like structure consists of a concrete arch with an earth covering. The exposed stone facade, of native basalt, features a stepped parapet with concrete coping.

**BRIDGE OVER BURRO CAÑON**

Colo. Hwy. 12, Madrid, Las Animas County  
National Register 2/4/1985, 5LA.1825

Completed in 1936, the bridge consists of three skewed semicircular arches with multiplates fabricated by the Hardesty Manufacturing Company. It features rusticated stone facing and grapevined mortar joints, trademarks of WPA workmanship in southeastern Colorado. It is Colorado's only WPA bridge of skewed construction employing a multiplate liner.

**CENTRAL SCHOOL AUDITORIUM AND GYMNASIUM**

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

A 1938 project supported by the school district, town leaders and a PWA 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 that continues to serve in the same capacity for which it was built. It is the only Monte Vista example of the work of prominent architect Charles E. Thomas incorporating Mission, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Romanesque elements. The PWA grant provided 45 percent of the building's cost and WPA workers were involved in some aspects of the project.

**COLORADO AMPHITHEATER**

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

Located on the south side of South Table Mountain, the amphitheater was constructed by the WPA 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 fieldstone and concrete seating area was built on the natural slope below the mesa's edge. It forms an inverted U-shape that is flanked by concrete mortared stone walls,



which are buttressed for support. An associated footbridge, crossing a drainage, provides access from a parking lot.

### **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 Thompson D. Hetherington—the auditorium is the last of the classically-inspired civic buildings constructed in the city. The interior contains a mural painted as a WPA project.

### **COLORADO STATE CAPITOL ANNEX AND BOILER PLANT**

1341 Sherman St., Denver  
National Register 6/24/1991, 5DV.3844  
[See Public Works Administration]

### **COLORADO STATE FAIRGROUNDS**

1001 Beulah Avenue  
State Register 11/30/2006, 5PE.552

The fairgrounds have long been a gathering place for the state's agricultural community and have also served as a vehicle to educate, promote and entertain the public about Colorado agriculture. Since 1901, farmers and stock men and women have come to the annual exposition at this location to display and compare their products, to see and learn about the latest advances in agricultural technology and techniques, and to purchase quality livestock. The 4-H club, a youth organization orientated toward agriculture education, has maintained a steady presence at the fairgrounds since 1918. The complex benefited from a number of Depression-era New Deal work-relief programs. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Works Progress Administration helped fund and provide workers for the construction of six buildings, much of the perimeter walls, the extensive horse stables, and other infrastructure improvements. The fairgrounds also hosted a Civilian Conservation Corps camp. (*Photograph of horse stables, 2006*)



### **DENVER CITY PARK**

Bounded by E. 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Colorado Blvd.,  
E. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. and York St.  
National Register 9/17/1986, 5DV.50

City Park is the largest and among the oldest of Denver's parks. Henry Meryweather laid out the park in 1882 in the romantic tradition exemplified by Olmsted's Central Park. City Park is divided into active and passive zones in the tradition of late 19<sup>th</sup>-century park design and is embellished with elaborate broderie gardens, lakes, fountains and ponds, a zoo and a museum of natural history, important mountain vistas, playgrounds, and an extraordinary diversity of well-designed and well-planted landscapes. Reinhard Schuetze redesigned parts of the park around 1900, as did

Saco R. DeBoer in the 1920s. The WPA constructed the warehouse of grey stone in the park shops area of the park.

### **DEVILS KITCHEN PICNIC SHELTER**

Colorado National Monument  
Grand Junction vicinity, Mesa County  
National Register 4/21/1994, 5ME.1173  
[See Civilian Conservation Corps]

### **DOUGLAS CROSSING BRIDGE**

County Rd. 28, Granada vicinity, Prowers County  
National Register 2/4/1985, 5PW.44

Constructed in 1936 of locally quarried stone by an eight-man Works Progress Administration crew, this filled arch was faced with rusticated stone and features six, 14-foot span, semicircular arches springing from battered piers. It served as an important crossing for the nearby agricultural community.

### **FORT VASQUEZ SITE**

US Hwy. 85, Platteville vicinity, Weld County  
National Register 9/30/1970,  
Additional Documentation 09/09/2001, 5WL.568

Louis Vasquez and Andrew Sublette built an adobe fort on this site about 1835 as part of their fur trading enterprise. The two sold the fort in 1841 and it was abandoned a year later. In the late 1930s, the Works Progress Administration reconstructed the adobe fort using the small portions of the remaining walls and the limited information available regarding the size and plan of the original. The Colorado Historical Society operates the property as a museum.

### **FRUITA ELEMENTARY**

325 E. Aspen St., Fruita, Mesa County  
State Register 3/10/1993, 5ME.4600

Built in 1912 to replace an 1887 structure, the WPA constructed two wings in 1936. The building functioned as a site for community meetings and events, but served primarily as an elementary school and junior high school annex until the early 1980s. Vacant for a time, this rare local example of the Classical Revival style now serves as a community center.

### **FRUITA MUSEUM (Chamber of Commerce)**

432 E. Aspen, Fruita, Mesa County  
National Register 10/10/1996, 5ME.7041

The 1938 Fruita Museum, a WPA project, is a symbol of the community's efforts to establish a local museum. The building is architecturally significant as a well-preserved, well-crafted, and virtually unique example of stone construction. The exterior and interior surfaces are comprised of a wide variety of rocks that bear distinctive markings.



**HARTMAN GYMNASIUM**

School Ave., Hartman, Prowers County  
State Register 3/13/1996, 5PW.74

The circa 1938 gymnasium is associated with New Deal programs in Prowers County. The building is the only example of Works Progress Administration construction in Hartman and one of only a few such projects in the county. Its use as a community center continues to contribute to the social history of Hartman.

**HOLLY CITY HALL**

119 E. Cheyenne St., Holly  
State Register 6/11/2003, National Register 10/11/2003,  
5PW.175

The 1938 Holly City Hall held the town's police and fire departments, library, and a multi-use community room. The Holly City Hall served effectively for over sixty years as an important center of town life. The WPA used local labor and materials to construct the hall as a town sponsored project. The building typifies the simple but dignified WPA Modernist designs used for city hall and courthouse construction.

**HOLLY GYMNASIUM**

North Main Street, Holly  
National Register 4/24/2007, 5PW.268

Built under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration, the building is associated with the federal relief programs administered in Eastern Colorado during the Great Depression. Providing employment and increased job skills for the area's unemployed, construction began on the Holly Gym in 1936 utilizing a locally quarried chalk-like stone—Niobrara. The WPA created an opportunity to provide the town with a more "progressive" educational facility. This was the first school gymnasium in Holly, which not only functioned for athletic education, but was also used for music classes and the hot lunch program. This building was the community's first modern recreational facility. The Holly Gym reflects the functional design and use of local materials that is characteristic of WPA buildings. Some of the largest examples of New Deal resources in eastern Colorado were the prominent auditorium/gymnasium buildings. *(Photographs 2006)*

**JULESBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY**

300 Cedar St., Jules burg, Sedgwick County  
State Register 8/8/2001, 5SW.80

The 1937 building of stuccoed cinderblock represents the successful culmination of the organizing and fundraising efforts of the Julesburg Woman's Club to establish a permanent town library and community meeting facility. The project combined local funds with a grant from the Depression era Works Progress Administration.

**KIM SCHOOLS**

425 State St., Kim  
National Register 4/24/2007, 5LA.1815

Three stone buildings, a gymnasium flanked by an elementary and a high school, represent the work of several

New Deal relief programs. Constructed over an eight-year period, the buildings provided employment in Kim during much of the Great Depression. Construction on the gymnasium began in December 1933 as a Civil Works Administration project. It was completed in the spring of 1935 after being transferred to the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and finished by a Works Progress Administration project. The school district submitted a successful WPA application for the 1937 elementary school. The WPA approved a third project in 1938 for the county high school building, which was dedicated in January 1941. These were the first substantial education buildings constructed in Kim. Built from locally quarried stone with framing materials salvaged from buildings demolished at Fort Lyon, they are excellent examples of New Deal Rustic design with craftsmanship, materials, and construction methods reflecting their origin as public works programs designed to provide employment. The three buildings remain the center of local education and community activities. *(Photographs of High School and Gymnasium, 2006)*



### LA JUNTA CITY PARK

Colorado Ave. and 10<sup>th</sup> St., La Junta  
National Register 4/24/2007, 5OT.937

Constructed between 1933 and 1941, the park demonstrates the importance of federal relief programs in Colorado during the Great Depression. The Civil Works Administration project focused on drainage in the park, while the later Works Progress Administration projects involved extensive landscaping that included building the lake; planting trees and building drives; and constructing rustic stone walls, benches and buildings. La Junta City Park is the primary park for the community. Although the land was donated to the city in 1905, few improvements were made. The New Deal projects converted an underutilized and poorly drained park into a location for active and passive recreation. The park exemplifies WPA design influenced by the Rustic style. Characteristic elements of the style seen in the park include the use of native stone, traditional construction methods, simple functional design, and evident hand craftsmanship, such as the beaded grapevine mortar joints. The materials and construction methods reflect public relief work programs designed to be labor intensive. *(Photographs 2006)*



### LAND'S END OBSERVATORY

Land's End Rd., 10 Miles west of Highway 65,  
Whitewater vicinity, Mesa County  
National Register 2/28/1997, 5ME.4936

The property represents the expansion of the U.S. Forest Service's mission from basic custodianship to extensive resource management and the recreational development of its lands. Constructed during 1936-37 by the Works Progress Administration, with some assistance from two Civilian Conservation Corps side camps, the Rustic style building is perched on the edge of the south side of Grand Mesa and provides a panoramic view of the surrounding area.

**LOMA COMMUNITY HALL**

1341 13 Rd., Loma, Mesa County  
 State Register 07/13/1994,  
 National Register 11/22/1995, 5ME.7055  
 [See Resettlement Administration]

**MANITOU EXPERIMENTAL FOREST STATION**

232 County Rd. 79, Woodland Park vicinity, Teller County  
 State Register 05/14/1997  
 National Register 08/28/1998, 5TL.2130

Built between 1937 and 1939, this collection of six architecturally significant sandstone buildings represents some of the finest Depression-era construction in Colorado. As one of only two experimental forest stations in the state, the property is also significant in the areas of conservation and agriculture. The WPA constructed the buildings as part of the Farm Security Administration's Fountain Creek Southeast Project.

**MONUMENT VALLEY PARK**

Approximately bounded by Monroe, Culebra, Westview and Bejou Sts., the BNSF railroad tracks, and the west edge of the north-south trail, north of Del Norte, Colorado Springs  
 National Register 1/25/2007, 5EP.613

This two-mile long ribbon of public park land green is the most significant component of the open spaces donated by city founder William Jackson Palmer that formed the nucleus of the public park system. Palmer envisioned its creation, acquired the land, provided direction for its development, and paid the immense cost of its initial improvement. He selected the original landscape architect and worked closely with the engineer to insure that the design and plantings proceeded according to his exacting specifications. Monument Valley Park is considered the most significant of Palmer's park donations, and it was the most extensively planned and improved. It most represents his philosophies of park use and development, including an emphasis on preserving and utilizing existing topography, enframing scenic views, employing native materials and vegetation, and most notably excluding motorized vehicles. Creation of this park was one of the largest local employment projects in the city during 1904-07. The park has served as a place of quiet contemplation as well as for active recreation.

The park exhibits the work of landscape architects and planners Charles W. Leavitt, Jr. and Charles Mulford Robinson, as well as that of engineer Edmond C. van Diest. Architecturally, the Rustic style is displayed in early 20<sup>th</sup>-century park resources and translated by the WPA in the 1930s into a number of native stone park features (such as bridges, ditches, seating areas, retaining walls, entrances, monuments and overlooks). Following the 1935 Memorial Day flood, the Works Progress Administration focused major efforts on the park. Flood debris cleanup, creek re-channeling, building and structure restoration, and the erection of new monuments and structures, all provided a major source of local employment during the Great Depression. *(Photograph 2006)*



**OTIS MUNICIPAL WATERWORKS SYSTEM**

302 E. 1st Ave & 113 Work St., Otis  
 Washington County  
 State Register 8/11/1993, Revised Nomination 5/16/2001,  
 5WN.74/5WN.165

In 1918, after many problems with area wells, the town committed itself to establish a water system that would be independent of the railroad and provide the dependable water supply necessary for town safety and future growth. The pump house and first wells were constructed in 1919. The Otis Water Tower, a steel cylinder, with semi-spherical bottom and conical top elevated 110 feet on four webbed steel legs, is the tallest structure in town and serves as a local landmark. Built by Chicago Bridge and Iron Works, the tower stands as a symbol of the important part played by water projects in the developmental history of rural Colorado. The subsequent digging of a 1936 well occurred as a result of a Works Progress Administration project.

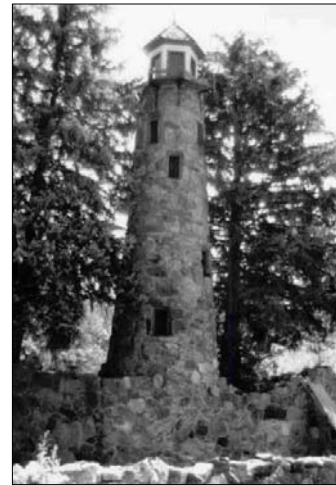
**PUEBLO CITY PARK ZOO**

3455 Nuckolls Ave., Pueblo, Pueblo County  
 National Register 07/28/1995, 5PE.587

The two-and-one-half acre zoo contains an assortment of buildings and structures constructed between 1933 and 1940, utilizing native calcium sandstone quarried 25 miles west of Pueblo. The zoo exemplifies the trend toward exhibiting animals in more natural settings. The Pueblo Zoo was constructed during the Great Depression through the efforts of three New Deal agencies: the Public Works Administration; Civil Works Administration; and the Works Progress Administration.

**PUEBLO MOUNTAIN PARK**

S. Pine Dr., 1 mile south of County Rd. 220  
 Beulah vicinity, Pueblo County  
 National Register 12/6/1994, 5PE.1663  
 [See Civilian Conservation Corps]

**REILLY CANYON BRIDGE P-18-U AND P-18-7**

32610 Colo. Hwy. 12,  
 Trinidad Lake State Park  
 Trinidad vicinity, Las Animas County  
 State Register 12/8/1999, 5LA.8579

The bridge spans Reilly Creek as part of an abandoned segment of State Highway 12. It includes three separate spans over the creek and a large single-span overpass for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. Constructed in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration, the bridge with its rock-faced masonry and beaded mortar joints is characteristic of WPA construction in southeastern Colorado.

**RIM ROCK DRIVE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Colorado National Monument  
 Grand Junction vicinity, Mesa County  
 National Register 4/21/1994, 5ME.5944  
 [See Civilian Conservation Corps]

**RITO SECO CREEK CULVERT**

Colo. Hwy. 142, San Luis, Costilla County  
National Register 10/15/2002, 5CT.322

Consisting of two 18-foot spans, the steel multiplate arch culvert is faced with local volcanic fieldstone. Constructed in 1936, the culvert remains intact as a good example of one of the smaller bridges built by the Works Progress Administration during the years of the Great Depression.

**SADDLEHORN COMFORT STATION**

Colorado National Monument  
Grand Junction vicinity, Mesa County  
National Register 4/21/1994, 5ME.1174  
[See Civilian Conservation Corps]

**SADDLEHORN UTILITY AREA HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Colorado National Monument  
Grand Junction vicinity, Mesa County  
National Register 4/21/1994, 5ME.7084  
[See Civilian Conservation Corps]

**SEDGWICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

315 Cedar St., Julesburg  
National Register 4/24/2007, 5SW.81

Constructed by the Works Progress Administration between 1938 and 1939, the courthouse represents federal New Deal relief programs at work in eastern Colorado during the Great Depression. The county commissioners took advantage of the WPA program to match county funds toward the construction of a new courthouse to replace a 1904 facility. The building is an excellent example of the WPA Art Deco style applied to a government building whose construction was constrained by the economic conditions of the Depression. Designed by Denver architects W. Gordon Jamieson and R. Ewing Stiffler, its Art Deco elements include the vertical emphasis with a stepped facade and the stylized decoration of floral patterns and sunrises on the terra cotta tiles. Essential to the governing of the county, the building has continuously served as the courthouse and jail since 1939. (*Photograph2006*)

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE  
GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND  
PRESERVE**

Colo. Highway 150, southwest of Mosca  
Alamosa County  
National Register 11/02/1989, 5AL.414

Constructed in the Territorial Adobe style, the building features a gabled roof, an Anglo modification of the traditional Hispanic flat roof. It was the largest project undertaken by the WPA during its late 1930s work at Great Sand Dunes. It represents the Rustic design movement, championed by the National Park Service's first director, Stephen T. Mather, who advocated the use of native materials and vernacular building traditions wherever possible. A fee station stands nearby.

**WILEY ROCK SCHOOLHOUSE**

603 Main St., Wiley

National Register 2/20/2004, 5PW.196

The 1938 Wiley Rock Schoolhouse served as an annex to the adjacent high school and provided space for classes in agriculture, a blacksmith shop for manual training, and a sound-proof music room for the band and orchestra. While successfully serving these purposes, the building went on to provide other educational opportunities. The WPA undertook the construction of the school district sponsored project. The school typifies the WPA's use of local labor and local materials. The simple stone building exhibits creative masonry technique and quality craftsmanship.

**WILLOW CREEK PARK**

Memorial Drive, Parkview Ave. and Willow Valley Rd., Lamar

National Register 8/10/2007, 5PW.56

[See Civil Works Administration]



# RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

## FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

The Resettlement Administration (RA) was a New Deal relief program created to relocate citizens in Dust Bowl stricken areas to less developed but more prosperous regions and assist in their resettlement. The RA adhered to the theory that mutual community support of residents would increase the likelihood of the individual participants achieving economic success and at the same time decrease the need for federal assistance. The Farm Security Administration (FSA) took over from the RA in 1938.

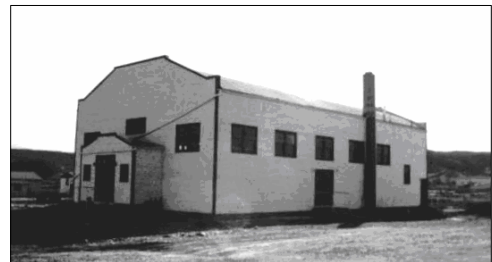
The RA established 149 relocation projects across the United States. Two such resettlement projects were opened in Colorado. One was in the Loma vicinity west of Grand Junction and the other was south of Monte Vista. The federal government purchased land in project areas to provide farm families with 60 to 160 acres, a house, barn and outbuildings. Families could rent the resettlement homesteads for a trial period of up to five years with the option to purchase the property with low interest long term loans from the government. Additional short term loans were available to farmers to purchase livestock and other equipment. Community cooperation was encouraged to facilitate the purchase and shared use of such large farm equipment as tractors. The RA/FSA provided educational assistance to farm families on wide range of aspects of farm management, personal health, and domestic science. As part of this community cooperation initiative, a community building was constructed in a central location for each project. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) sometimes built the structures and buildings used by the RA.

During World War II the federal government reevaluated the mortgages extended to the resettled farmers through RA or FSA projects. Some farmers, angered by the increases and changes to their original loan agreements, left their farms. These mortgage changes, along with the draw of men and women away from rural areas to support war effort employment, and the economic failure of some program participants, reduced the number of resettled farm families by the post war years.

### LOMA COMMUNITY HALL

1341 13 Rd., Loma, Mesa County  
State Register 7/13/1994,  
National Register 11/22/1995, 5ME.7055

The building is an intact example of a WPA-constructed community hall built in 1938 for use by local participants in the Depression-era farm resettlement program. The basement kitchen provided hot lunches to the nearby elementary school, another WPA project.



### MANITOU EXPERIMENTAL FOREST STATION

232 County Rd. 79, Woodland Park vicinity  
Teller County, State Register 05/14/1997  
National Register 8/28/1998, 5TL.2130

[See Works Progress Administration]

## POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

The Post Office Department built a number of facilities during the depression both to improve its service as well as to serve as economy stimulating construction projects. Some of this work was accomplished in conjunction with New Deal relief programs. The Public Works Administration funded the construction of 408 post offices from 1933 to 1939. In one of the more notable collaborations, the Federal Artists Program of the Works Progress Administration supplied artists who painted murals for new post office lobbies. These murals often used local history and scenery as a theme.

### **CAÑON CITY POST OFFICE AND FEDERAL BUILDING (Fremont Center for the Arts)**

5th & Macon Ave., Cañon City, Florence County  
National Register 1/22/1986, 5FN.551

Constructed in the early 1930s, the building is a late example of the Italian Renaissance Revival style. It is monumental in proportion and exhibits excellent detailing.



### **DELTA POST OFFICE AND FEDERAL BUILDING**

360 Meeker St., Delta, Delta County  
National Register 1/24/1986, 5DT.270

Built in 1938, the simple two-story brick building, with three vertical marble panels marking its facade, is an interesting expression of Neo-Classicism. As a major construction project during the Depression, it serves as a reminder of the federal presence during a period of national economic emergency.

### **FLORENCE POST OFFICE**

121 N. Pikes Peak St., Florence  
Fremont County  
National Register 1/22/1986, 5FN.642

Constructed in 1936, the building is a particularly well-crafted example of Art Deco-flavored Neo-Classicism. It is the only local example of this motif and is a symbolic legacy of the federal government's role in aiding communities during the Depression.

### **LAMAR POST OFFICE**

300 S. Fifth St., Lamar, Prowers County  
National Register 1/22/1986, 5PW.43

Built in 1936, it is the only remaining post office of its type in Colorado. The building is an especially pleasing example illustrating the Spanish Colonial/Mediterranean influence on Neo-Classicism.

### **MANITOU SPRINGS POST OFFICE**

307 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs  
El Paso County  
National Register 1/24/1986, 5EP.530.71

Constructed in 1940, the building is a well executed interpretation of American Colonial Revival design. The use of stone distinguishes the building from other examples in Colorado and symbolizes the success of local citizens in obtaining authorization for its use.

**MONTE VISTA POST OFFICE AND FEDERAL BUILDING**

Washington & Second Ave.  
Monte Vista, Rio Grande County  
National Register 1/22/1986, 5RN.21

Constructed in 1933, the building remains a dominant structure in Monte Vista and is the community's finest example of Beaux-Arts-influenced architecture.

**RIFLE POST OFFICE**

Railroad Ave. & Fourth St., Rifle  
Garfield County  
National Register 1/24/1986, 5GF.281

Constructed in 1940, the building is the most detailed and complete of the five identified, small Colonial Revival influenced post offices in Colorado. George Vander Sluis painted the mural, entitled Colorado Landscape, in 1942 as a WPA project.

**U.S. POST OFFICE / WAYNE N. ASPINALL FEDERAL BUILDING / U.S. COURTHOUSE**

400 Rood Ave., Grand Junction  
National Register 1/31/1980, 5ME.299

The three-story Italian Renaissance Revival style building was constructed as a post office in 1918. James A. Wetmore served as the supervisory architect. The walls are of Indiana limestone, and the tall first floor windows are set in rounded arches. A 1940 addition, funded by the PWA, extends from the rear of the building. In 1972, Congress renamed the building in honor of Wayne N. Aspinall who had a distinguished career as a U.S. Representative from Colorado from 1949 to 1973.

## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The Bureau of Reclamation constructed a number of water retention and transfer facilities during the depression both to improve overall agriculture production and to deal with the devastation of the Great Plains drought and dust bowl conditions. In Colorado, the largest such effort was the massive Colorado-Big Thompson diversion project. The Public Works Administration often supplied the funding for these major water projects.

### **COLORADO-BIG THOMPSON PROJECT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

850 N. St. Vrain Ave.

State Register 6/10/1998, 5LR.485

Constructed in 1939, the one-story, wood-frame building served as the administrative office for the Colorado-Big Thompson project until 1953. The Public Works Administration funded this New Deal era project that was the largest water diversion, irrigation, and power generating undertaking in Colorado. The building is the state's best surviving example of Depression era, Bureau of Reclamation Colonial Revival design.

