

COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
1300 Broadway  
Denver, Colorado 80203

**HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORD**

Project name: Grand Junction Downtown Survey  
County: Mesa City: Grand Junction  
State ID no. 5ME 4129 Temporary no.  
Current building name: Benges's Shoes  
Address: 514 Main, Grand Junction, CO 81501  
Owner: Bruce Evan Benges, 514 Main St., Grand Junction, CO 81501  
Township: 1S range: 1W section: 14, NE 1/4, SW 1/4  
Historic name:  
USGS quad name: Grand Jct., CO 1962 N3900-W10830 X 7.5' 15'  
District name:  
Block: 104 lot(s) 29 Addition: City  
Yr. of addition  
Film roll by: Marty Alexandroff no.  
Negative nos. 5858-9  
Location of negatives: City of Grand Junction

Date of construction: \_\_\_\_\_ estimate 1890 actual

Source: 1981 Historic Survey of City

Use: commercial present commercial historic

Condition: \_\_\_\_\_ excellent X good \_\_\_\_\_ fair \_\_\_\_\_ deteriorating

Extent of alterations: \_\_\_\_\_ minor \_\_\_\_\_ moderate X major

Describe: Display windows, recessed door, awnings, new fieldstone covers entire facade

Style: Commercial

Stories: 2

original  moved date(s) of move:

Materials: Brick

Square footage: 3125

National Register Eligibility:

Individual:  yes  no

Contributing to district:  yes  no

Local landmark designation: \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ date

Associated buildings?  yes type:

If inventoried, list ID nos.

Architectural description: Two-story commercial building with recessed entry, display windows and brick kickplate. A canvas awning with lettering is located across the front of the building. Fieldstone veneer on upper portion of building.

Architect: unknown

Source:

Original owner: unknown

Source:

Builder/contractor: unknown

Source:

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Theme(s): Plateau Country/commercial

Construction history (description, names, dates, etc. relating to major additions or alterations to original structure): Display windows, recessed door, awnings, new brick—1950s

Historic background (discuss important persons and events associated with this structure): This structure is located within the original platted area of Grand Junction and was representative of the 1890s town building. This business has been on Main

Street since 1925.

Three generations of Benges have operated the family shoe store, now considered to be the second oldest shoe store in Colorado. Bert M. Benge, "the shoeman," opened his first store in 1911 at 422 Main Street. Benge's remained at the original address until the early 1920's when the store was moved to its current location. Of special interest to visitors are a fluoroscope machine (x-ray) and a carousel horse. The horse has been ridden by thousands since it was acquired in the 1950's.

Significance: (check appropriate categories and briefly justify below)

Architectural significance:	Historic significance:
<input type="checkbox"/> represents the work of a master	<input type="checkbox"/> associated with significant persons
<input type="checkbox"/> possesses high artistic values	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> associated with significant events or patterns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> represents a type, period or method of construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> contributes to an historic district

Statement of significance:

Contributing, with qualifications. This structure is located within the original platted area of Grand Junction and was representative of the 1890s town building and simple brick structures on Main Street. This business has been on Main Street for over 50 years.

References (be specific)

1981 Historic Survey of City  
Mesa County Assessor's Records

Surveyed by: Marty Alexandroff affiliation: Winter & Company

Date: July, 1994





**514 Main Street**

**Current Google Street View**

**July 2012**