

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 4128 Temporary no.

Current building name: A.G. Edwards / Back Porch Music

Address: 501/511 Main, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Owner: Sanna Marie Foster, C.A. Newton & A.D. Raso, 3525 Senna Way,  
Grand Junction, CO 81506-8488

Township: 1S range: 1W section: 14, NE 1/4, SW 1/4

Historic name: The Fair Building

USGS quad name: Grand Jct., CO 1962 N3900-W10830 X 7.5' 15'

District name:

Block: 117 lot(s) 1, 2, 3 Addition: City

Yr. of addition

Film roll by: Marty Alexandroff no.

Negative nos. 6138-7, 5858-14

Location of negatives: City of Grand Junction

Date of construction: 1905-10 estimate      actual

Source: 1992 Historic Building Inventory Record

Use:     commercial     present     commercial     historic

Condition:   X   excellent      good      fair      deteriorating

Extent of alterations: \_\_\_minor \_\_\_moderate Xmajor

Describe: Painted brick, new display windows, entries; alterations are compatible

Style: Commercial/19<sup>th</sup> Century Vernacular

Stories: 2

X original \_\_\_moved date(s) of move:

Materials: Brick (painted), stone, iron

Square footage: 31500

National Register Eligibility:

Individual: Xyes \_\_\_no

Contributing to district: Xyes \_\_\_no

Local landmark designation: \_\_\_\_\_name \_\_\_\_\_date

Associated buildings? \_\_\_\_\_yes type:

If inventoried, list ID nos.

Architectural description: Two-story brick structure; a simple unadorned example of turn-of-the-century Vernacular Commercial style. Evenly spaced windows with flatstone arches and sills, and indented pediment pattern in the brickwork; display windows on the Main Street side with etched glass panes above them.

Architect: unknown

Source:

Original owner: William J. Moyers

Source: 1992 Historic Building Inventory Form

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): The Fair Building was built around 1910 to house a thriving mercantile store owned by William J. Moyers. It continued in this use until the Great Depression when the store failed. A Montgomery Wards outlet occupied the space in 1936. The owners attached a corrugated metal façade, changed the display windows and blocked in the windows on the west side, after the style of the 1940s and

1950s to "modernize" the look of the store. This façade was removed in 1983 when a rehabilitation project designed by architect Robert Jenkins attempted to restore the building to its original Main Street front.

Historic background (discuss important persons and events associated with this structure): This building housed one of the largest department stores on the western slope of Colorado. William J. Moyers opened his first "Fair" store in 1890 in a small frame building on the south side of Main Street in Grand Junction. His store became known for its fine merchandise and good service. The store prospered and outgrew its location twice before Moyers had the building at 501 Main built in 1910. For the next twenty-five years "The Fair" was in its heyday, handling high quality merchandise that included everything from clothing to household goods. Moyers himself was the driving force behind the success of the store. He was reputed to insist on good quality and attempted to provide a good working atmosphere for his employees. He was a business leader and philanthropist in the local community with a reputation for great generosity. He contributed to many public projects, including the construction of many roads in western Colorado before the state began to fund highway projects. His most notable local contribution was that of a public swimming pool, given to the residents of the city of Grand Junction in June 1922, stipulating that the children should have two days a week to swim free of charge.

Significance: (check appropriate categories and briefly justify below)

Architectural significance:	Historic significance:
<input type="checkbox"/> represents the work of a master	<input checked="" 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; "The Fair" Building is important because it represent a good example of a historic commercial enterprise and has been restored to its original style and use and serves as a memorial to William J. Moyers, who contributed a great deal to the community of Grand Junction.

References (be specific)

1981 Historic Survey of City  
1992 Historic Building Inventory Form

Surveyed by: Marty Alexandroff affiliation: Winter & Company  
Date: July, 1994





E 5th

W 1st

GUILD APPLIANCE AND LINEN

WATER TOWER RESTAURANT