

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. SME 4142 temporary no.

current building name: St. Regis Hotel

address: 359 Colorado, Grand Junction, CO 81501

owner: Harley Nelson, 193 Webster Rd., Grand Junction, 80503

township: 1S range: 1W section: 14

historic name: Hotel St. Regis/Grand Hotel

USGS quad name: Grand Junction, CO 1962 X 7.5' 15'

district name:

block: 12 lot(s) 14, 15, 16 addition: City

yr. of addition

film roll by: Marty Alexandroff no.

negative nos. 6943-15

location of negatives: City of Grand Junction

date of construction: \_\_\_\_\_ estimate 1892 actual

source: 1992 National Register nomination form

use: restaurant/hotel vacant present hotel historic

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

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

describe: An original covered doorway has been removed from the east side of the building; display windows with canvas awnings have been added over lower level windows on north side and an awning has been installed over the corner entrance. Dates unknown.

style: vernacular commercial

original  moved date(s) of move:

materials: brick

square footage:

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: The building has a u-shaped plan which reflects three major additions to the original two-story structure. Three stories exist along the two street fronts and the west rear wing has two stories. The brick veneer walls are capped on the street sides with a wood and sheet metal cornice forming a parapet above the flat roof. A cupola sits above the northeast corner of the building, and is one of the most distinctive features of the building. The hotel facade itself is a very simple design with windows evenly spaced and lined up above each other. The pattern of window placement was determined by the various additions to the original structure. The building angles across the corner at Colorado and Fourth Street for form the main existing entrance. There are subsidiary entrances on both the east and north sides of the building. The historic exterior of the building has remained intact since its last major remodeling after a fire in 1924. The original structure, called the Grand Hotel, built in 1895, stood on piling and mostly brick foundation, with the center of the building supported by concrete piers. The building was of wood frame construction, with bricks and mortar placed between the studs and held in place by nails driven through studs. A pressed metal facing covered the exterior of the building. Part of this metal facing still exists in an interior courtyard formed by the original building and the two story west wing, added in 1906.

architect: Unknown

source:

original owner:

source:

builder/contractor:

source:

theme(s): Plateau Country/commercial

construction history: (description, names, dates, etc. relating to major additions or alterations to original structure)  
The hotel was built in three phases starting in 1892. In 1904 brick was added and a third story. A two story west wing was added in 1906; the Colorado Street front elevation was re-aligned to have the same roof line as the three story Fourth Street elevation and the brick facade finished in a 1908 remodeling. The copula above the entrance corner was added between the 1904 addition of the third floor and 1924 when the building was completed.

historic background (discuss important persons and events associated with this structure)

During the ownership of Harry Burnett Jr. in the 1920s and 1930s, the hotel was considered a very respectable hostelry, "one of the most prosperous hotels in Western Colorado." As a good business man and politician (the only candidate from Western Colorado, he ran for the office of Secretary of State as a Republican in 1934, but lost), Burnett was a member of almost every service and social organization in town; most of these organizations used the hotel as their meeting place. At that time, the new radio station broadcast live music from the St. Regis featuring a local dance band.

The hotel, from the turn of the century through the 1940s, was a solid money maker, servicing the people who traveled by train. In later years, the bar was largely responsible for supporting the business. During World War II, flyers shuttling aircraft from the east coast to the west coast would stop over at the hotel while their planes were being serviced at the airport. During the 1950's "Uranium Boom", the bar business was so good that the Sample Rooms on the first floor were remodeled to make room for the crowds. During the 1960-1980 period, under new management, a lively country western style bar business overshadowed the hotel business.

Most people today know the hotel from the rather scandalous reputation it gained over its later years and not for its elegant early period. A change in methods of transportation, such as travel by automobile rather than rail, soon took travelers away from the center of town. The lack of off-street parking, modernized bathroom facilities, a television in every room and other conveniences found in the newer motels, contributed to the decline of the hotel.

significance: (check appropriate categories and briefly justify below)

architectural significance:  
 represents the work of a master  
 possesses high artistic values  
 represents a type, period or method of construction

historic significance:  
 associated with significant persons  
 associated with significant events or patterns  
 contributes to an historic district

statement of significance:

Intact, significant. Contributing. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Significance as representative of patterns of the development of this area of Colorado and Grand Junction's last remaining example of a type of hotel that was prevalent during the first part of the century in the west. It served as headquarters for commercial men who brought new goods into the area.

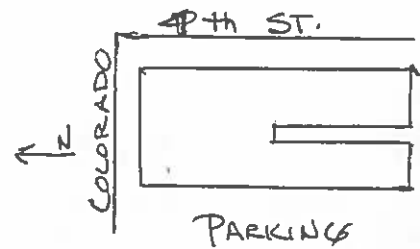
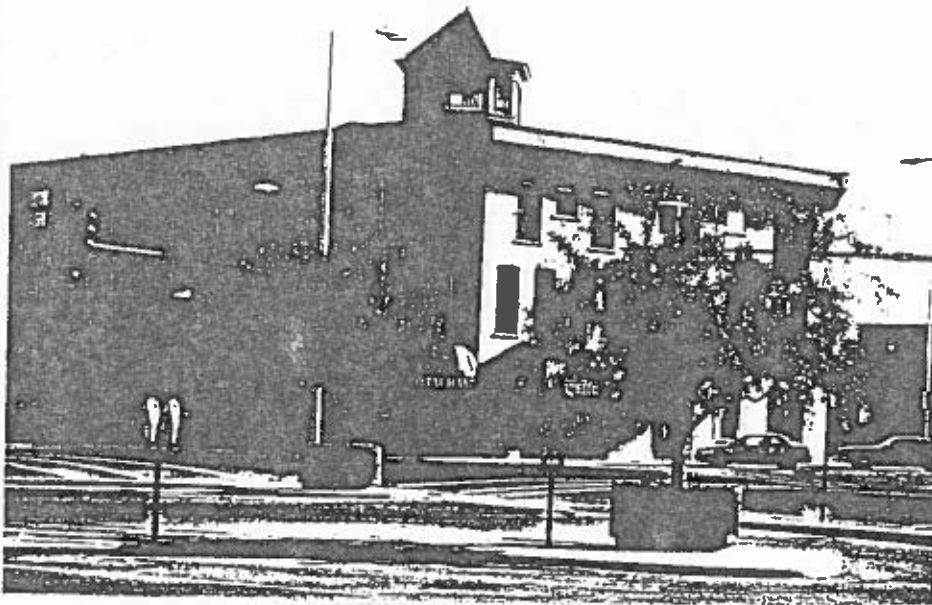
references (be specific)

1992 National Register Nomination Form

surveyed by: Marty Alexandroff

affiliation: Winter & Company

date: July, 1994











© 2013 Google

S-R

ST REGIS

ST REGIS



ST REGIS HOTEL

ONE WAY