

1. Title / Content Area:	Colorado Courthouses
2. Historic Site:	Bent County Courthouse, Hinsdale County Courthouse
3. Episode:	https://www.pbs.org/video/colorado-experience-courthouses/
3. Developed by:	Laura Israelson, Denver Public Schools Michelle Pearson, Adams 12 Five Star Schools
4. Grade Level and Standards	6-8 6th: History 1.1, 1.2, Civics 1.1, Civics 4.1 7th: History 1.1, 1.2, Economics 3.1, Civics 4.2 8th: History 1.1, 1.2,
5. Assessment Question:	How does the architecture of two Colorado county courthouses reflect the importance of the role of the buildings in their community?
6. Contextual Paragraph	<p>Colorado courthouses are prominent and important buildings throughout the state, and play an important role in the establishment of the communities they serve. Many times, courthouses were the signs and symbols of the government of the town, state, or nation in a place that may seem somewhat lawless otherwise.</p> <p>The Bent County Courthouse is a rising symbol on Route 50 in Bent County and stands as a recognizable landmark in the county. The Hinsdale County Courthouse in Lake City is much more demure, but still functions as an important building in the region and was definitely more advanced in design than most buildings in the community built around the same period.</p>
7. Connection to Historic Preservation	<p>The Colorado State Historical Fund has invested millions of dollars in the restoration and preservation of historic sites in the state of Colorado and courthouses are some of their most widely seen and visited investments across the state. From roof to foundation, wood to stone, the materials, finishes, and built structures of these important buildings showcase what is best about Colorado craftsmanship. Additionally, many are landmarked on local, state, and national registers.</p> <p>The Bent County Courthouse was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 and is significant due to its design, The building is totally symmetrical, has four stone</p>



corners, and has intricate facades which are often uncommon in rural areas.

The Hinsdale County Courthouse is a contributing member of the Lake City Historic District which was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. The Hinsdale County Courthouse is significant because it reflects an Italianate design located in a small mining town, and also reflects the events which occurred on site such as the trial of Alfred Packer, and a speech given by Susan B Anthony

Document Based Question (DBQ)

Document Set

Bent County Courthouse



<https://www.loc.gov/item/2015632243/>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What are the architectural features present in the courthouse?
2. The National Register Nomination states, "it has the solid dignity and visual strength appropriate for but not always present in county courthouses." What features give that impression?
3. Why would Bent County want a courthouse such as this?
4. The National Register Nomination also mentions that, "the visual impact of the building remains undiminished." What features lend themselves to this type of impact? Why?

Hinsdale Courthouse



<http://www.hinsdalecountycolorado.us/history.html>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What type of individual architectural features do you see in this building?
2. The Hinsdale Courthouse is an example of what kind of architecture?
3. The courthouse is the oldest courthouse in Colorado still being used for its original purpose. How does this continued use assist with, and also create challenges for its continued preservation?
4. Why would miners have built a building like this when most of them were living in very small miners houses or tents?

Assessment Question

How does the architecture of two Colorado county courthouses reflect the importance of the role of the buildings in their community?

Response