



Name of Property: Denver Civic Center
City, State: Denver, Colorado
Period of Significance: 1890-1935
NHL Criteria: 1, 4
NHL Theme: III. Expressing Cultural Values
5. Architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design
Previous Recognition: 1974 National Register of Historic Places, nationally significant
1988 Additional documentation and a boundary revision .
National Historic Context: VII. Political and Military Affairs, 1865-1939
C. The Progressive Era, 1901-1914
XVI. Architecture
W. Regional and Urban Planning
1. Urban Areas
XVII. Landscape Architecture
XXIV. Painting and Sculpture
G. Historical Painting and Sculpture: Memory and Dreams,
1876-1908
H. The 20th Century, 1900-1930
3. Regionalism, 1915-1935



NHL Significance:

- The Denver Civic Center is an outstanding representation of the widespread impact of the City Beautiful Movement on American cities and the attendant creation of civic centers during the early twentieth century. This theme is central to the history of American planning, architecture, art, and landscape architecture.
- Described as “one of the most complete and intact City Beautiful civic centers in the country,” Denver’s is an exceptional representative of successful planning and implementation of a City Beautiful era civic center, which contrasts with that of most cities, where the era’s civic center aspirations resulted in little or no actual construction.
- The Denver Civic Center is an exceptional representation of Beaux-Arts Classicism in America, as reflected in the composition of its plan and the design of its cultural and governmental buildings. The civic center encompasses both the Colorado State Capitol and the Denver City and County Building, which face each other across a swath of open parkland containing embellishing structures, and objects of art.
- As an outstanding example of cohesive public landscape design and as a collection of public architecture, the civic center’s artistic merit represents the work of several nationally and regionally prominent planners, architects, artists, and landscape architects including Charles Mulford Robinson, Frederick MacMonnies, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and Edward H. Bennett.

Integrity:

The district is remarkably intact, retaining significant features of its historic designed landscape including all of the buildings, structures, and all but one object (a flagpole) that adorned it during the period of significance. Moreover, resources added after the period of significance are generally small and in keeping with the artistic and commemorative intent envisioned by early planners.



Owner of Property: State of Colorado, and the City and County of Denver

Acreage of Property: 33 acres

Origins of Nomination:

The NHL process began in 2006 when the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office contacted the National Park Service staff in the Intermountain Regional Office in Denver about the potential for NHL status of the Civic Center. NPS encouraged the nomination effort, provided partial funding and facilitated using research skills of a University of Colorado intern. Historic Denver, Inc. took on the role of having the nomination prepared; the nonprofit organization received additional funding from a Colorado State Historical Fund grant and hired Front Range Research Associates, Inc. to write the nomination.