

## HISTORY COLORADO

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
NOMINATION FORM**SECTION I****Name of Property**Historic Name Knights of Columbus Hall / Colorado Springs Pioneer MuseumOther Names Pikes Peak Library District**Address of Property**

[ ] address not for publication

Street Address 25 W. Kiowa St.City Colorado SpringsCounty El PasoZip 80901**Present Owner of Property**

(for multiple ownership, list the names and addresses of each owner on one or more continuation sheets)

Name Pikes Peak Library DistrictAddress PO Box 1579Phone 719-531-6333City Colorado SpringsState COZip 80901**Owner Consent for Nomination**

(attach signed consent from each owner of property - see attached form)

**Preparer of Nomination**Name Tim Blevins, Special Collections Div. HeadDate May 1, 2015Organization Pikes Peak Library DistrictAddress 20 N. Cascade Ave.Phone 719-531-6333 x2258City Colorado SpringsState COZip 80903**FOR OFFICIAL USE:**Site Number 5EP.6346/5/2015 Nomination Received9/18/2015 Review Board Recommendation☒ Approval ☐ Denial9/24/2015 HC Board State Register Listing☒ Approved ☐ DeniedListing Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D ☐ E**Certification of Listing:** Vice President of Preservation Programs, HISTORY COLORADO

Date

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### SECTION II

#### Local Historic Designation

Has the property received local historic designation?

☒ no

☐ yes --- ☐ individually designated ☐ designated as part of a historic district

Date designated \_\_\_\_\_

Designated by \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of municipality or county)

#### Use of Property

Historic Knights of Columbus Hall, Social/Clubhouse, Recreation, and Culture/Museum

Current Pikes Peak Library District, Education/Library, Special Collections storage, offices

Original Owner Knights of Columbus, Council 582

Source of Information Cornerstone; Colorado Cultural Resource Survey, Architectural

Inventory Form for Resource No. 5EP634 (2003–2004)

Year of Construction 1928

Source of Information Cornerstone; Colorado Springs Gazette October 12, 1928, 10;

Architectural Inventory Form for Resource No. 5EP634 (2003–2004)

Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer Thomas MacLaren (original architect);

Wilson & Browneller (addition architects)

Source of Information Colorado Springs Gazette, October 12, 1928, 10, and January 2, 1962, 1

#### Locational Status

☒ Original location of structure(s)

☐ Structure(s) moved to current location

Date of move \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION III

#### Description and Alterations

(describe the current and original appearance of the property and any alterations on one or more continuation sheets)

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### SECTION IV

#### Significance of Property

##### Nomination Criteria

- ☒ **A** - property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history
- ☐ **B** - property is connected with persons significant in history
- ☒ **C** - property has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan
- ☐ **D** - property is of geographic importance
- ☐ **E** - property contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history

##### Areas of Significance

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                               | Architecture                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology –<br>prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Law                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology –<br>historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/<br>Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Heritage                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/<br>Settlement              | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Geography/<br>Community Identity        | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/<br>Government   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community<br>Planning and<br>Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medicine                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social History |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation            |

#### Significance Statement

(explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets) **Attached**

#### Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets) **Attached**

### SECTION V

#### Locational Information

Lot(s) W 60.0 FT OF LOT 16 EX S 50.0 FT OF W 10.0 FT OF E 50.0 FT EX THAT PAT DESC AS FOLS: BEG AT NW COR OF SD LOT 16, TH S ON W LN 13.0 FT, ANG L 84 degrees 00'00" 9.0 FT TO PT OF CUR, TH ALG ARC OF CUR R WITH A RAD OF 837.0 FT TO PT ON E LN OF SD 60.0 FT TRACT, TH N ON E LN 11.0 FT TO NE COR, TH WLY ALG N LN OF SD LOT 16 TO POB

Block A Addition 5 COLO SPGS (1893)

USGS Topographic Quad Map Colorado Springs

#### Verbal Boundary Description of Nominated Property

(describe the boundaries of the nominated property on a continuation sheet) **Attached**

## COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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### SECTION VI

#### Photograph Log for Black and White Photographs

(prepare a photograph log on one or more continuation sheets) **Attached**

### SECTION VII

#### ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO ACCOMPANY NOMINATION

Owner Consent Form

Black and White Photographs

Color Prints or Digital Images

Sketch Map(s)

Photocopy of USGS Map Section

Optional Materials

#### Use of Nomination Materials

Upon submission to the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, all nomination forms and supporting materials become public records pursuant to CRS Title 24, and may be accessed, copied, and used for personal or commercial purposes in accordance with state law unless otherwise specifically exempted. History Colorado may reproduce, publish, display, perform, prepare derivative works or otherwise use the nomination materials for History Colorado and/or State Register purposes.

#### For Office Use Only

Property Type: ☒ building(s) ☐ district ☐ site ☐ structure ☐ object ☐ area

Architectural Style/Engineering Type: Mission

Period of Significance: 1928-77

Level of Significance: ☒ Local ☐ State ☐ National

Multiple Property Submission: n/a

Acreage .50

P.M. 6th Township 14S Range 66W Section 18 Quarter Sections SE SE NW NW  
SW SW NE NW

UTM Reference: Zone 13 Easting 515031 Northing 4298555 NAD83

Site Elevation: 6000 feet

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## DESCRIPTION and ALTERATIONS

The original 1928 Knights of Columbus Hall is a one-story buff-colored wire-drawn brick building (overall dimensions 118'-11" x 45'-2") with a flat roof and a curved parapet on the front, projecting bays on the sides, and red clay tile coping between the bays. At the south (rear) of the building is a 1961 two-story 51' 1½" x 50' 3" masonry addition faced with wire-cut blond brick, with a flat roof. The top floor of the addition extends the roofline of the original building. At the rear of the original building the land drops off, and the lower floor of the addition extends downward. The lower level of the 1961 addition is below the gymnasium level of the original building. There is a 1996 elevator and stair addition on the east side of the 1961 addition. The resulting footprint of the building with additions is an irregular L-shape.

### North-facing façade

The north-facing side of the building fronts onto Kiowa Street and is where the main entrance is located. The projecting hipped-roof entrance bay has red clay tile roofing. The shaped parapet above the roof of the bay has terra cotta coping and polychromatic terra cotta ornaments, including decorative shields and a central cartouche inscribed with "KC 582." The parapet is flanked by bands of tile terminated by projecting piers with shaped terra cotta tops. The projecting enclosed brick of the entrance bay has inset paneled wood doors, with round lights, on both the east and west. Above the entrances are blind arches with terra cotta tile insets. The north wall of the entrance bay has a center round-arched window with multiple lights and stained glass flanked by vertical multi-light windows with stained glass. Brick pilasters with tile tops are located at the outside ends of the entrance bay. Each entrance faces a curved stoop with concrete steps and brick side walls with terra cotta trim. On either side of the entrance bay on the north face of the building are large eight-over-one-light, double-hung, wood sash windows with brick sills and eight-light, double-hung, wood sash basement windows below. Most of the windows in the original building are fitted with woven wire security screens installed between 1930 and 1960. A metal canopy frame is attached above the west door of the entrance. The gray granite cornerstone at the northeast corner reads "Knights of Columbus, Council 582, A.D. 1928."

### East-facing side

The north end of the east-facing side has four, six-over-one-light, double-hung, wood sash windows and four, six-light, double-hung, wood sash basement windows. Beyond these windows, the slightly projecting bay (the gymnasium) has wall pilasters with tile tops. There is a series of tall, twelve-over-twelve-light, double-hung, wood sash windows along the bay; the first window has an arched transom, whereas the others are surmounted by blind arches with decorative brickwork. The last window on the original portion of the building toward the rear (south) has a small wood projection below it on the lower wall. At the end of the bay is a stepped out entrance bay with an arched parapet with terra cotta ornamentation featuring swan and diamond-shaped tile insets, a multi-light window with arched transom and decorative brick lintel, and an inset entrance with double flush wood panel doors. On the addition, the east wall has no fenestration.

### West-facing side

The west wall is similar to the east, except on the north end it has four wood basement windows on the top level and a four-light vertical wood door to the basement level. On the addition, the west wall has six, two-light, large rectangular wood windows.

### South-facing side

A single-light rectangular wood window is on the south wall, which consists entirely of the 1961 addition.

### Elevator and Stairs Addition

In 1996, an 11'-6" x 16' elevator and stairs bay was added to the east side of the southeast corner of the 1961

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addition to allow ADA access to most levels of the building. This bay is faced with wire-cut blond brick on the west wall and rock-faced concrete block on the north and south walls. The bay extends downward to the level of the parking lot on the south, with inset double steel doors. The roofline of the elevator bay projects to the same height as the roofline of the 1961 addition and the original building. The elevator and stairs serve both levels of the 1961 addition and the gymnasium level of the original building.

### **Alterations**

The building has had two additions constructed at the rear; one in 1961 to accommodate the growing Pioneer Museum, and the other in 1996 to provide ADA access to all levels of the building. Otherwise, very little of the building has been altered on its exterior. Windows and exterior doors within the 1928 building are original, as is the terra cotta tile coping and roofing. When the building was converted to office use in 1977, windows were added to the west wall of the 1961 addition, and a catwalk was installed between the added mezzanine on the south end and the original top floor balcony.<sup>1</sup>

### **Integrity**

The Knights of Columbus Hall has integrity of location as it stands at its original site at 25 W. Kiowa Street. The building has integrity of setting as its current environs closely resemble their appearance during the period of significance. These include the former grade school to the west, Carnegie Library (National Register listed 11/1/1996, 5EP.646) to the east, and St. Mary's Catholic Church (National Register listed 6/3/1982, 5EP.208) across the street to the north. Together, these buildings retain a feeling of a western gateway to downtown Colorado Springs. Sometime after 1930 the undeveloped space between the Knights of Columbus building and the 1905 Carnegie Library to the east was used as a parking lot. The space consists of a fenced demonstration garden (the Carnegie Public Garden) but remains open as it was historically.

Two additions (1961 and 1996) to architect Thomas MacLaren's 1928 Mission design were constructed at the rear of the Knights of Columbus building. Although the additions are visible from Kiowa Street, they do not detract from the integrity of the overall design. The rear south end of the original Knights of Columbus building had neither windows nor stylized embellishment and was designed by MacLaren for future expansion.<sup>2</sup> The 1961 two-story addition to accommodate the Pioneer Museum's growing collection and exhibit area was constructed during the period of significance. The additions' architects were sensitive to the appearance of the original building and selected brick facing that complemented the original and maintained the integrity of materials and workmanship, as witnessed in the original tile coping and terra cotta decorative elements. The building further retains its integrity of association and feeling as it remains much as it was when it served the community of Colorado Springs, first as a fraternal organization and public meeting space, and then as the first Pioneer Museum exhibiting local history.

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1. D. Abele, "Downtown Intensive Survey, Muir and Associates Building" (Colorado Springs, May 15, 1985), CA 14.2, Special Collections, Pikes Peak Library District.

2. Thomas MacLaren, "Knights of Columbus Building for Council No. 582, Colorado Springs, Building No. 1144, Drawing No. 7," South Elevation, May 12, 1928, Special Collections, Pikes Peak Library District.

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## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The Knights of Columbus Hall is significant under Criterion A for Social History as a venue for various social and entertainment activities (1928–1937). The primary purpose of the building was for Knights of Columbus meetings, members' social gatherings, and as a site for other fraternal organizations to meet. In addition, the building supported public events and assemblies, especially targeting young people and high school students, for dances, athletic games, and other school activities.

Further, the Knights of Columbus building is locally significant under Criterion A for Entertainment/Recreation as the first home of the Pioneer Museum (1937–1977). The Museum's substantial collections of locally-significant artifacts were stored in private homes and sheds prior to the purchase of the Knights of Columbus building where these historical items were publically exhibited. The Museum was essential to preserving and interpreting the history of the Colorado Springs community and was visited by residents, tourists, and school children for forty years before relocating to the former County Courthouse.

Finally, the building is locally significant under Criterion C for Architecture as a good example of the Mission style of architecture and as an example of architect Thomas MacLaren's work. MacLaren designed numerous public and private buildings in Colorado. A few of his notable buildings that were Mission-style designs include his 1920 Inez Johnson Lewis School (National Register listed 11/3/1988, 5EP.1106); his 1907 Orchard House at Chambers Ranch (National Register listed 11/29/1979, 5EP.188); and buildings on the El Pomar Estate (National Register listed 11/22/1995, 5EP.377), including his 1916 Chauffeur's Cottage (with Charles E. Thomas) and the 1917 Gardener's Cottage and Gate Lodge (with Thomas D. Hetherington). Though all of these buildings are Mission-style designs, the Knights of Columbus building is a distinct example of a large hall of brick construction in downtown Colorado Springs.

The period of significance for the Knights of Columbus building, 1928–1977, includes the period the building was the home for Colorado Springs Council No. 582 through the building's use as the Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum.

## Historic Background

The Knights of Columbus, a Catholic men's patriotic and fraternal organization founded by Father Michael J. McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1882, established Colorado Springs Council No. 582 at the Odd Fellows Hall on June 9, 1901, with 25 charter members.<sup>3</sup> The first meetings continued at the Odd Fellows Hall, upstairs at 109 North Tejon Street, but soon moved to Caledonian Hall at 18 East Bijou Street (5EP.654).<sup>4</sup> Growing to 300 members by 1924, the membership set-out to raise \$16,000 to construct a home of their own.<sup>5</sup> In August 1927, a clubhouse "to be used for general Catholic activities in the region" was proposed for construction across the street from St. Mary's Catholic Church (National Register listed 6/3/1982, 5EP.208) and St. Mary's High School on a lot immediately west of the Colorado Springs Public Library at 21 West Kiowa Street, now identified as the 1905 Carnegie Library, a Neo-Classical brick building designed by Calvin

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3. "History," *Knights of Columbus*, <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/about/history/index.html> (accessed April 1, 2015); Manly Dayton Ormes and Eleanor R. Ormes, *The Book of Colorado Springs* (Colorado Springs: The Dentan Printing Co., 1933), 290. The Colorado Springs Council of the Knights of Columbus is frequently identified as No. 582 or No. 588. The central cartouche is inscribed "KC 582."

4. *The Giles City Directory of Colorado Springs, Colorado City, and Manitou* (Colorado Springs: The Giles Directory Co., 1903), 105, 244. The building formerly at 109 North Tejon Street is now commercial condominiums built in 2006, "Pubic Record Property Information," El Paso County Assessor, <http://land.elpasoco.com/scheduledisplay.aspx?sched=6418209112> (accessed April 7, 2015).

5. "K. of C. to Launch Drive Next Week," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, January 31, 1924.

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Kiesling of Boston (National Register listed 11/1/1996, 5EP.646).<sup>6</sup> The original concept for the Knights of Columbus home was a stately building, including red brick walls, rugged face brick on the front, and a small porch above the entrance "columned with Doric pillars."<sup>7</sup> This plan was apparently abandoned for unknown reasons.

Thomas MacLaren (1863–1928), the prolific and talented architect of many Colorado Springs buildings, was engaged to design the new hall, estimated to cost \$30,000. MacLaren's Mission design included "accommodations on the ground floor for a lineup room, locker room, cloak room, lavatory, kitchen, boiler room and an assembly room in the rear."<sup>8</sup>

Thomas MacLaren was born in Scotland in 1863. He attended classes at the South Kensington School of Art at Edinburgh before moving to London in 1880 to live with his brother, John Majoribanks MacLaren, who was an architect with William Wallace & William Flockhart. In 1882, Thomas MacLaren attended the Royal Academy of London where his achievements mounted, receiving many awards and recognitions. He apprenticed for Wallace & Flockhart and later assisted Flockhart after his partnership with Wallace dissolved. By 1889, Thomas MacLaren was in independent practice in London, designing Double Cottage (1889) and Oaklawn (1891), both in Crawley Down, Sussex, England. He designed other buildings in England and Scotland, as well as ship interiors.<sup>9</sup>

In October 1891, Thomas's brother, John, died from tuberculosis and Thomas showed symptoms of the disease. In 1892, Thomas sought the cure in Colorado, first settling in Denver and soon after moving to Colorado Springs where he established his practice and remained until his death several decades later.<sup>10</sup> MacLaren is credited as the architect, or architect in collaboration, for 90 public, commercial, and private buildings in Colorado.<sup>11</sup> During his career as an architect in Colorado Springs, MacLaren was in independent practice (1894–1905), associated with Thomas Barber (1903), associated with Charles E. Thomas (1906–1917), associated with Thomas D. Hetherington (1918–1924), and independent again at the end of his career (1925–1928).<sup>12</sup> According to the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's (OAHP) biographical sketch of him, "MacLaren was a classically trained architect who was a master at traditional European forms, designing buildings in the Classical, Gothic, or Italian Renaissance mode. He was also influenced by the Mission architecture of California."<sup>13</sup>

A few of Thomas MacLaren's notable buildings include several churches, libraries, residences, schools, and other public buildings, many of which have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The table below provides a sampling of his recognized works:<sup>14</sup>

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6. "K. of C. to Build on Kiowa Street," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, August 14, 1927; "Formal Opening of Public Library," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, March 12, 1905; "National and State Register Listed Properties," *History Colorado*, <http://www.historycolorado.org/archaeologists/listed-properties> (accessed April 9, 2015).

7. "Knights of Columbus New Home Drive Will Be Staged Here September 1, 2, 3," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, August 21, 1927.

8. "Knights of Columbus to Build Clubhouse," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, May 6, 1928.

9. "Thomas MacLaren," *Dictionary of Scottish Architects*, [http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect\\_full.php?id=204455](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=204455) (accessed April 7, 2015).

10. Ibid.

11. History Colorado, *Colorado Architects Biographical Sketch: Thomas MacLaren*, September 12, 2002, [http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/Guides/Architects\\_maclaren.pdf](http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/Guides/Architects_maclaren.pdf) (accessed March 23, 2015).

12. Ibid.

13. Ibid.

14. Ibid.; "National and State Register Listed Properties," History Colorado, <http://www.historycolorado.org/archaeologists/listed-properties> (accessed April 9, 2015).



**COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Section IV

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Name	Address	National Register Listing Date	Site No.
Christ Episcopal Church (1902)	802 Harrison Ave., Cañon City, CO	8/19/1994	5FN.1194
Carnegie Library (1906)	1125 Pine St., Boulder, CO	2/16/1979	5BL.365
Claremont/Trianon/Baldwin House (1906)	21 Broadmoor Ave., Colorado Springs, CO	4/13/1977	5EP.186
Colorado Springs City Auditorium (1922), MacLaren and Hetherington with Charles E. Thomas	231 E. Kiowa St., Colorado Springs, CO	11/7/1995	5EP.628
Inez Johnson Lewis School (1920), MacLaren and Hetherington	146 Jefferson St., Monument, CO	11/3/1988	5EP.1106

The Knights of Columbus Mission-style building was the last of MacLaren's designs built during his lifetime.<sup>15</sup> Thomas MacLaren died in December 1928.<sup>16</sup>

Construction of the Knights of Columbus building was overseen by P&H Contractors with work undertaken by Colorado Springs companies including: R. E. Alderson, general contractor; Marden Plumbing Company; C. A. Shadford, electrical contractor; The Morrell Hardware Company; Kistler Electric Company, installation of fixtures; National Clay Products Company, bricks; Fred Bonser, plaster; The Lowell Maservey Hardware Company, sheet metal and roofing.<sup>17</sup>

The Knights of Columbus home of the Colorado Springs Council No. 582 opened on Columbus Day, October 12, 1928.<sup>18</sup> The *Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph* reported the "main hall and lodge room is 66 by 42 feet in dimensions and has one of the finest hard maple floors in the region," and that "the building will be used largely for the young people of the region regardless of creed."<sup>19</sup>

The elaborate dedication ceremony featured the Denver pastor of St. Vincent's church, Rev. Francis W. Walsh, who spoke "with pride in the achievement of the Knights of Columbus in service to the nation in peace and at war and pleading for charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism." He said that "it is perhaps unnecessary to say to the people of this community that this building which we dedicate today shall never be used for partizan [sic] politics, city, state or national, unless it be done in violation of the sacred promises made by all members of the Knights of Columbus." Reverend Walsh also spoke of the patriotic service of members during World War I and the post-war efforts to rehabilitate and comfort wounded soldiers and "another work of national importance . . . to keep pure and unsullied the truth of our American history, and to make that truth ever more widely known."<sup>20</sup>

15. History Colorado, *Colorado Architects Biographical Sketch: Thomas MacLaren*.

16. "Thomas McLaren Obituary," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, December 8, 1928.

17. "Knights of Columbus," Blueprints, MSS 0200, Special Collections, Pikes Peak Library District; "Knights of Columbus Dedicate New Building at 2:30 P.M. Today," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, October 12, 1928.

18. "Knights of Columbus Dedicate New Building at 2:30 P.M. Today."

19. "Big Ceremony to Dedicate K. C. Building," *Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph*, October 10, 1928.

20. "Denver Priest Dedicates K. C. New Home and Defends Order from 'Unjust Attacks,'" *Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph*, October 12, 1928.

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The expressed desire for the use of the Knights of Columbus building widened considerably from the initial "Catholic activities in the region." Promising a more inclusive policy to the citizens of Colorado Springs, "the building, exclusive of clubrooms, shall be available to the public and to civic, athletic, and bonafide fraternal organizations at any time . . . and without discrimination. . . . Because of the proximity of the building to the heart of the city and the convenient size of the hall for the average gathering, we invite the people of Colorado Springs to inspect the most recent addition to civic growth and solicit the widest possible use . . . for fraternal meetings, patriotic meetings, labor meetings, public lectures, athletic contests, boxing and wrestling, bazars [sic], fiestas, fairs, gymnastic classes, dancing and card parties, school activities, dramatic rehearsals, musical recitals, graduation exercises, basketball practice, and other legitimate undertakings."<sup>21</sup>

The building was advertised as "facilities for all school functions," with "special inducement to students of St. Mary's High School," which was located across the street.<sup>22</sup> The *Marylin* yearbook included photographs of St. Mary's Pirates basketball players on the court and identified the gymnasium as a place "where pleasure dwells." Basketball fans supported their teams from above, on the top floor balcony overlooking the court floor.<sup>23</sup>

The Knights of Columbus members' realized long-time dream of a new home was short-lived as payments on the bonds sold to finance the building fell into default.<sup>24</sup> The building was sold to the City of Colorado Springs to become a local history museum. In February 1937, Colorado Springs City Council approved the purchase of the Knights of Columbus Hall and an adjacent lot west of the building for a total of \$13,000.<sup>25</sup> The building became the Pioneer Museum and was considered "ideally suited for the purpose."<sup>26</sup> Councilman Milton M. Sinton, a member of the El Paso County Pioneers Association, "put up his personal check to hold the property until a proposition of purchasing it could be brought before the City Council."<sup>27</sup> According to Councilman Sinton, as reported in the *Colorado Springs Gazette*, "The K. C. hall, with its large gymnasium room and several smaller rooms, should lend itself to museum purposes with no remodeling whatsoever. The fact that the building is next door to the city library makes the location almost ideal."<sup>28</sup> The city library is now known as the 1905 Carnegie Library.

The Pioneer Museum opened with a dedication ceremony on November 27, 1937. The event attracted "hundreds of guests" who "gathered to listen to old-time songs, witness Indian dances, join in old-time quadrilles, and inspect the magnificent museum displays."<sup>29</sup> Visitors to the new city museum experienced an eclectic assortment of "relics" collected for decades. Among them were "George Washington's whisky bottle, [a] saddle that Lincoln used, and Colorow's Buffalo Robe."<sup>30</sup> The museum's "magic walls" were "lined with pictures and cases of exhibits that typify times in the Pikes Peak region before Colorado Springs existed, and

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21. "Knights of Columbus Dedicate New Building at 2:30 P.M. Today."

22. St. Mary's High School, *Marylin* (Colorado Springs: St. Mary High School, 1930), 105.

23. St. Mary's High School, *Marylin* (Colorado Springs: St. Mary High School, 1929), 19.

24. "City Buys Knights of Columbus Hall as Museum for Region Pioneer Relics," *Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph*, February 20, 1937.

25. *Summary of Council Proceedings and Department Reports* (Colorado Springs: Colorado Springs City Council, February 19, 1937).

26. "City Buys Knights of Columbus Hall as Museum for Region Pioneer Relics."

27. "Melvin M. Sinton Founder of Dairy, Civic Leader, Dies," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, December 21, 1955.

28. "City Buys Knights of Columbus Hall as Museum for Region Pioneer Relics."

29. Charles S. Dudley, "New City Museum Is Dedicated by Pioneers," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, November 28, 1937.

30. "Pioneer Museum to House Finest Relics in the West," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, October 10, 1937.

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when the city was a little village of wooden sidewalks and horses hitched to buggies.”<sup>31</sup>

The opening of the Pioneer Museum in the former Knights of Columbus Hall “was the realization of a dream of the El Paso County Pioneer Association.”<sup>32</sup> Over the years the museum received numerous gifts of artifacts (large and small), paintings, books, papers, and photographs. Fundraising for a \$25,000 addition to the museum was contemplated in 1955; however, hopes were dashed when the City’s Appeals Review Board determined “such an addition should be built with city funds.”<sup>33</sup>

Visitors to the history museum grew and included local residents, students from elementary school through college, and out-of-town guests. Museum Curator Dorothy Smith estimated that more than 6,000 people toured the place between January and July 1961.<sup>34</sup> The building expansion proposal regained momentum in 1961 with a plan to more than double the square footage.<sup>35</sup> The City of Colorado Springs authorized funds for the addition designed by architects Grant A. Wilson and Wayne Browneller, and the construction contract was awarded to Raymond C. Whitlock for his bid of \$56,478.<sup>36</sup>

The two-story addition to the Pioneer Museum was completed during late 1961 and opened with new exhibits on New Year’s Day 1962. Among the new displays occupying the added space was a replica of the home of pioneer banker William S. Jackson, which included original materials from the home, period furniture, and belongings of the famous wife, poet, novelist, and activist Helen Hunt Jackson. The Jackson home “was the oldest house in Colorado Springs which had been continuously occupied by one family.”<sup>37</sup> It was razed in 1961 to build a new Colorado Springs Police building.

Now called the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, the organization continued to acquire items of interest to the public: arrowheads; dolls; an iron hall tree; rare “cave pearls”; crystals; minerals; and stalactites and stalagmites from the Cave of the Winds.<sup>38</sup> The new exhibits were credited for a 50 percent surge in visitors, totaling 18,278 in 1962.<sup>39</sup>

In 1972, the growing museum collection on Kiowa Street was once again squeezed into a cramped space. The embattled and empty 1903 El Paso County Courthouse (National Register listed 9/29/1972, 5EP.190) was eyed as an ideal museum location and a feasibility study determined a restoration was necessary before the Museum could occupy the building.<sup>40</sup> Expansion of the former Knights of Columbus building was also considered.<sup>41</sup> The County Courthouse was scheduled for demolition, but in 1967 the Board of Commissioners reversed the decision to raze the building. A \$2.2 million general obligation bond funded the needed remodeling of the Courthouse in 1975, and the Pioneers Museum closed on Kiowa Street at the end of June 1977 following a public farewell gala commemorating 40 years in the well-known brick edifice. The Museum

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31. Dudley, “New City Museum is Dedicated by Pioneers.”

32. Ibid.

33. “Pioneers Assn. Lays Plan for Museum Addition Drive,” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, April 20, 1955; “Review Board Rejects Drive for Museum Funds,” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, June 29, 1955.

34. “Pioneer Museum Crowds Greater Than Last Year,” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, July 10, 1961.

35. “Museum Floor Space to Be More Than Doubled,” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, May 21, 1961.

36. “City Awards \$56,478 Bid for Addition to Museum,” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, May 16, 1961.

37. “Pioneers Museum Adds Exhibits Thru Addition,” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, May 20, 1962.

38. “Cave of Winds Treasures Among Museum Additions,” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, January 3, 1963.

39. “Record 18,278 Persons Visit Pioneers Museum,” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, January 3, 1963.

40. “Henderson Is Satisfied with Progress of Museum,” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, November 9, 1972.

41. “Report Reveals Soundness of Courthouse for Museum,” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, September 5, 1973.

Property Name Knights of Columbus Hall / Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum

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opened at its new location in 1978.<sup>42</sup>

The first 50 years of the Knights of Columbus Hall were community focused. The building was well known by Colorado Springs residents as many attended events there or visited the museum. The building was a community landmark. After the Pioneers Museum moved to the 1903 El Paso County Courthouse, the Knights of Columbus building was no longer used for public purposes. In 1977, ownership changed to the architectural firm of Robert Muir and Associates, and the building was converted to office use. My Print Shop was another business identified as an occupant of the building in 1978. Muir and Associates occupied the building until 1988 and it was vacant from 1989 through 1990.<sup>43</sup>

On October 15, 1991, the Pikes Peak Library District became the last owner of the former Knights of Columbus building when it was purchased from Top Savings Bank for \$175,000. The elevator and stairs addition was added in August 1996. Adjacent to Penrose Public Library, the Knights of Columbus Hall was initially used for storage, and then housed the library district's technical services until the Collection Management Department moved to the Library 21c community library on the north end of Colorado Springs in 2014.<sup>44</sup>

In July 1968, Penrose Public Library opened adjoining the east side of the 1905 Carnegie Library. Penrose Library, the Carnegie Library, and the Knights of Columbus Hall form what is today known as the Penrose Library campus. The 1905 Carnegie Library was preserved and restored as a permanent neighbor to the Knights of Columbus Hall. The Carnegie Library was nominated to the National Register in 1996 and a major restoration and rehabilitation of the building was completed in 2002 with the generous assistance of the Colorado State Historical Fund.<sup>45</sup> Landscaping between the 1905 Carnegie Library and the Knights of Columbus building, planned and undertaken by Carla Anderson's Landscape Architect Colorado Garden Show Inc., has resulted in a public garden with a lawn, native and xeric plants, sculpture, terraced plant beds, flagstone paths, and benches for the public to sit and contemplate. In January 2015, the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees reviewed a concept plan to revitalize the Knights of Columbus Hall and return it to its original purpose as a public space for meetings, events, and other community-focused purposes. There is demand at Penrose Library for additional community space for art exhibits and displays, lectures, public programs, as well as computers and high-tech makerspace equipment. It is the Board's desire to return the Knights of Columbus Hall to a public space for these purposes.

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42. "Open House at Old Courthouse Slated Sunday and March 22," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, March 14, 1975; "Farewell to Museum," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, June 18, 1977; "Pioneers Museum to Commemorate Two Eras," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, June 6, 1977.

43. *Knights of Columbus Building Statement* (Colorado Springs: Pikes Peak Library District, March 15, 2008).

44. Ibid.

45. "History of PPLD," *Pikes Peak Library District*, <http://ppld.org/history-ppld> (accessed April 9, 2015).

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"Record 18,278 Persons Visit Pioneers Museum." *Colorado Springs Gazette*, January 3, 1963.

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**COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Page 11  
Section V**

**Property Name** **Knights of Columbus Hall / Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum**

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The 1928 Knights of Columbus Hall, Council 582, is located on the West 60 feet of Lot 16 in Block "A", Addition Number 5 to the City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County. The nominated area includes the building and the property historically associated with the building.

Property Name Knights of Columbus Hall / Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum

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### HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers H1-H7 except as noted:

Name of Property: Knights of Columbus Hall / Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum  
Location: 25 W. Kiowa St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
Photographer: Various (individually identified)  
Date of Photographs: Various (individually identified)  
Negatives: Photographic Prints with Pikes Peak Library District

Photo No.                      Photographic Information

H1	Knights of Columbus Hall entrance and east side, ca. 1930. Stewarts Commercial Photographers.
H2	St. Mary's Catholic Church and the west side of Knights of Columbus Hall, 1928. Stewarts Commercial Photographers.
H3	Colorado Springs Public Library and Knights of Columbus Hall, 1930. Photographer unknown.
H4	Rear view of the Knights of Columbus Hall (bottom, right of center). Also pictured are the Colorado Springs Library (right corner), St. Mary's High School (middle left), and St. Mary's Catholic Church (right of center) ca. 1930. Stewarts Commercial Photographers.
H5	Knights of Columbus Hall, gymnasium looking north, 1929. Photographer unknown.
H6	Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum, looking south, ca. 1940. Stewarts Commercial Photographers.
H7	St. Mary's High School, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum (far left), and the Colorado Springs Public Library, May 1966. Myron Wood photograph.



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### CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-4 except as noted:

Name of Property: Pikes Peak Library District / Knights of Columbus Hall  
Location: 25 W. Kiowa St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
Photographer: Tim Blevins  
Date of Photographs: April 30, 2015  
Negatives: TIF Files on file with Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
1	Entrance and east side the building.
2	Entrance with the polychromatic terra cotta decorative shields and central cartouche inscribed with "KC 582."
3	Entrance and west side of the building.
4	South end and east side of the building showing the 1961 addition.
5	Interior looking south showing the 1961 addition.
6	Interior looking north.
7	Penrose Library (left, mostly obscured), the 1905 Carnegie Library, and the former Knights of Columbus Hall on the south side of Kiowa Street.
8	South side of the former Knights of Columbus Hall (left), the 1905 Carnegie Library, and Penrose Library.

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Historic Photographs



**Photo H1** Knights of Columbus Hall entrance and east side, ca. 1930. Stewarts Commercial Photographers, Special Collections, Pikes Peak Library District (013-985).



**Photo H2** St. Mary's Catholic Church and the west side of Knights of Columbus Hall, 1928. Stewarts Commercial Photographers, Special Collections, Pikes Peak Library District (102-4927).

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Historic Photographs (cont.)



**Photo H3** Colorado Springs Public Library and Knights of Columbus Hall, "K of C and Gymnasium." St. Mary's High School, 1930 *Marylin* yearbook, p.17.



**Photo H4** Rear view of the Knights of Columbus Hall (bottom, right of center). Also pictured are the Colorado Springs Carnegie Library (right corner), St. Mary's High School (middle left), and St. Mary's Catholic Church (right of center) ca. 1930. Stewarts Commercial Photographers, Special Collections, Pikes Peak Library District (013-1067).

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Historic Photographs (cont.)



**Photo H5** Knights of Columbus Hall, gymnasium looking north, "Where pleasure dwells." St. Mary's High School, 1929 *Marylin* yearbook, p.19.

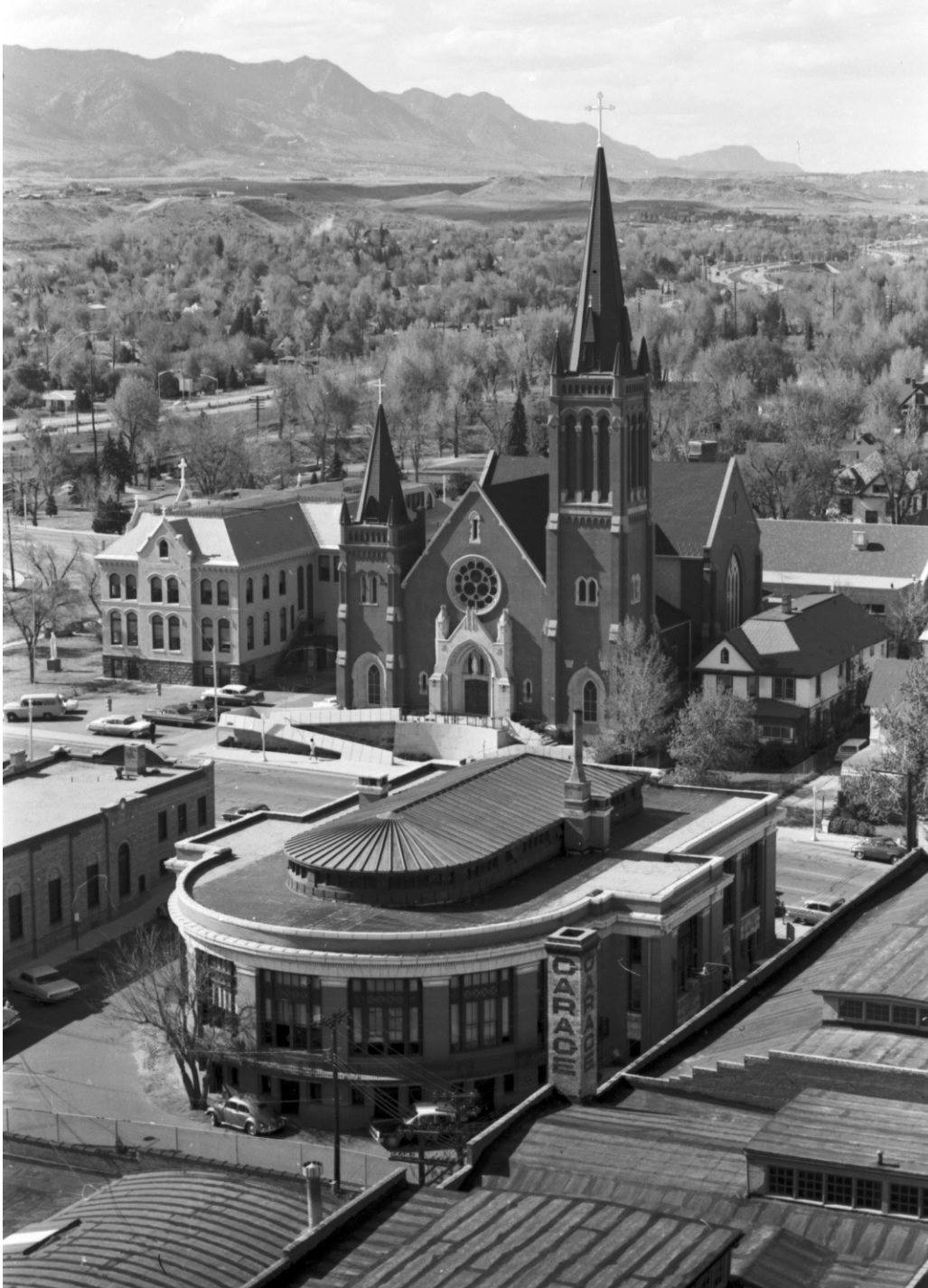


**Photo H6** Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum, looking south, ca. 1940. Stewarts Commercial Photographers, Special Collections, Pikes Peak Library District (013-70).

Property Name Knights of Columbus Hall / Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum

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Historic Photographs (cont.)

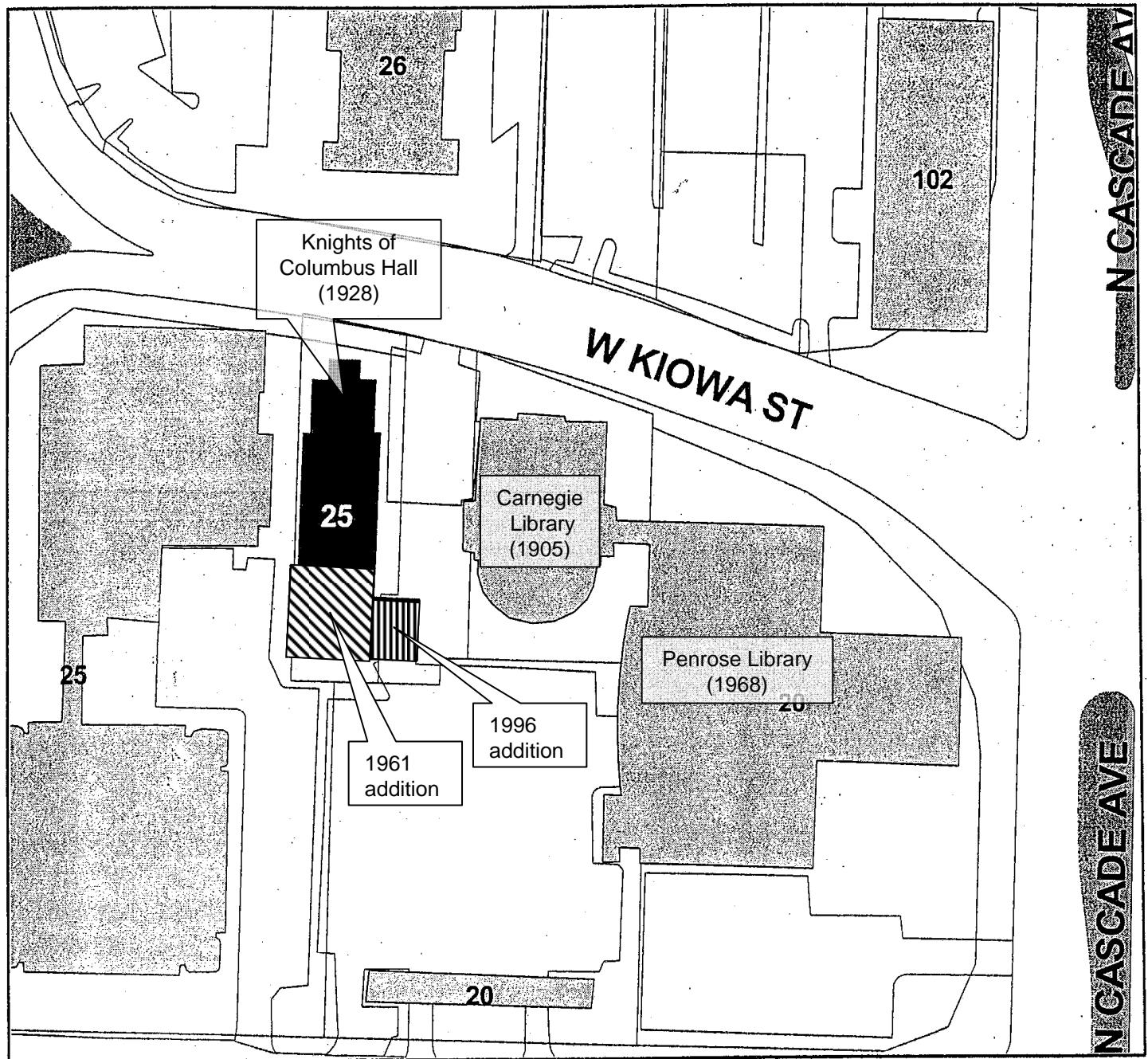


**Photo H7** St. Mary's High School, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum (far left), and the Colorado Springs Carnegie Public Library, May 1966. Myron Wood photograph, Special Collections, Pikes Peak Library District (002-3592).



Property Name Knights of Columbus Hall / Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum

Sketch Map



25 W. Kiowa St.

20 0 20 40 Feet



Knights of Columbus Hall, with 1961 and 1996 additions indicated. Based on R. Laurie Simmons, Thomas H. Simmons, and Front Range Research Associates, Historical and Architectural Survey of Downtown Colorado Springs, 2003-2004 / Prepared for the City of Colorado Springs (Front Range Research Associates, 2004).

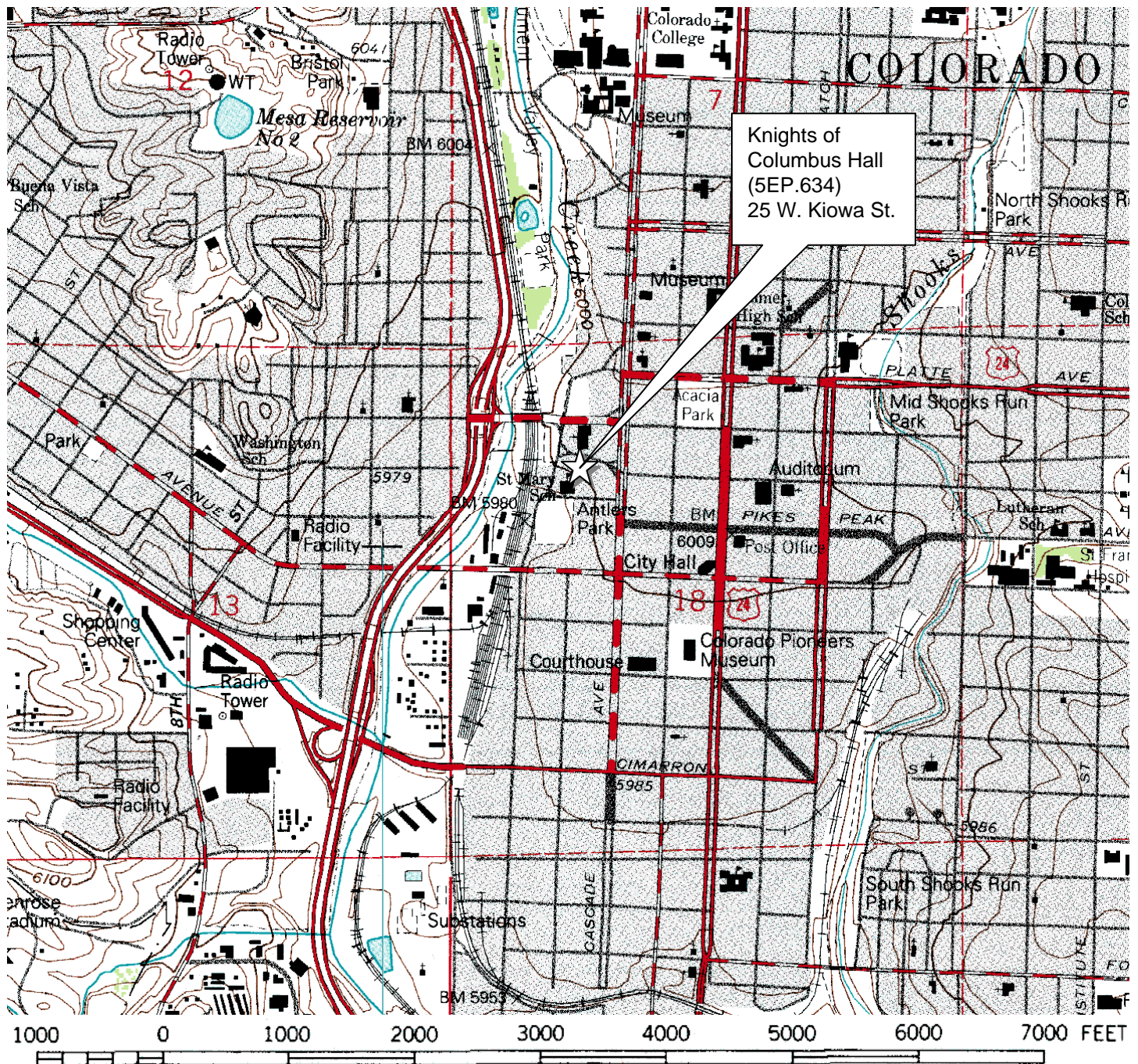


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**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**

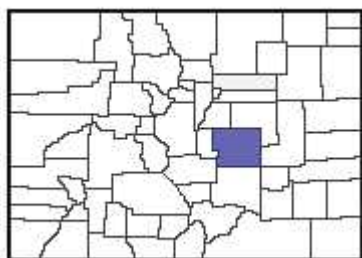
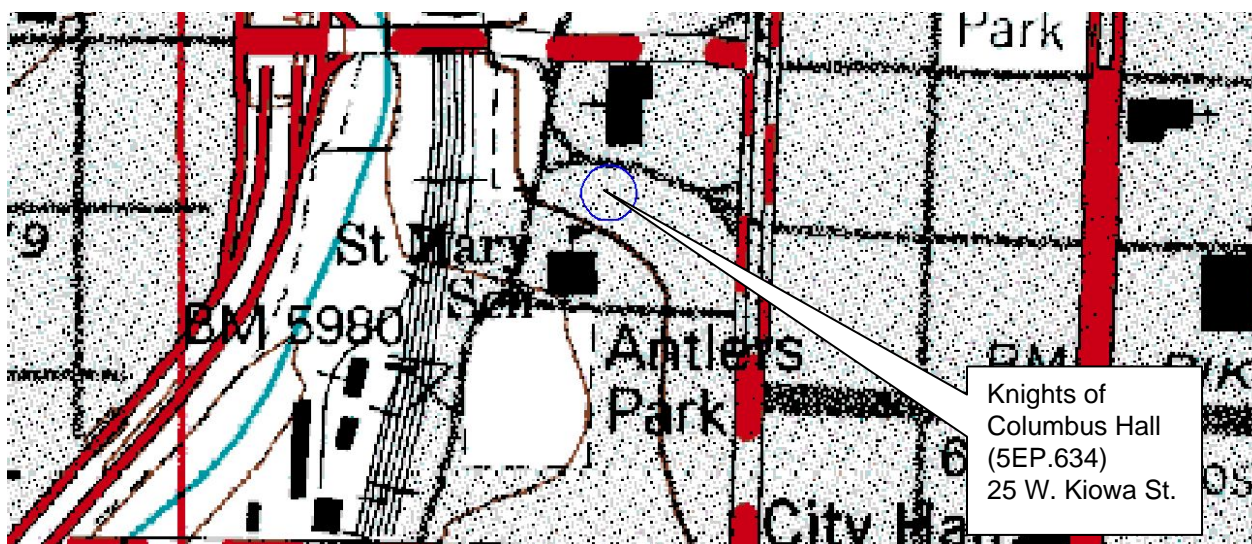
Quadrangle, Colorado

7.5 Minute Series "Colorado Springs, Colo." (1961, revised 1994).





Property Name Knights of Columbus Hall / Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum



Location: Colorado Springs, El Paso County