



PRESERVATION

Byron White U.S. Courthouse

1823 Stout Street
Denver, CO 80202

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The Byron White U.S. Courthouse was designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style by the New York firm of Tracy, Swartwout and Litchfield, and approved by James Knox Taylor, Supervising architect of the Treasury Department. Completed in 1916 with white Colorado Yule Marble and gray limestone cladding, the exterior is scaled proportionally to classical design. The entrance has a set of wide marble steps leading up to a three-story terrace formed of 16 columns. The remaining three sides of the building imitate the Stout Street terrace through engaged columns below and a structure that circles the building. The fourth floor has smooth marble and is covered by marble molding. Four significant spaces still remain: the masonry-vaulted lobby, the District Courtroom, the Court of Appeals, and the Law Library.

The historical significance of the building is based in part upon the regional history of the U.S. Postal Service. From the mid-1800s through the early 1860s, several overland stages and express delivery companies serviced the mail needs to the area. The system gradually improved with the addition of more reliable express coach companies and the Pony Express riders, such as Buffalo Bill Cody. The local population petitioned for establishment of a post office, and in 1861 a postmaster was appointed to the area recently named Denver, Colorado, previously known as Denver City, Kansas Territory. The names of famous Pony Express riders have been carved into the marble walls at the two ends of the lobby. Of particular interest are sculptures of bighorn sheep at the Eighteenth Street entrance, carved in 1936 by Denver sculptress, Gladys Caldwell Fisher. There are four murals by Herman Schladermundt in the first-floor elevator lobbies that were installed in 1918.

Originally known as the U.S. Post Office and Federal building, the building was renamed and dedicated in 1994 as the Byron White U.S. Courthouse. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. It is also included in a thematic resource nomination completed for 13 other post offices in Colorado constructed between 1900 and 1941.

