

1. Title / Content Area:	Colorado Courthouses
2. Historic Site:	Bent County Courthouse
3. Episode:	<a href="https://www.pbs.org/video/colorado-experience-courthouses/">https://www.pbs.org/video/colorado-experience-courthouses/</a>
3. Developed by:	Laura Israelsen, Denver Public Schools Michelle Pearson, Adams 12 Five Star Schools
4. Grade Level and Standards:	3-5: 3rd: 3rd: History 1.2, Geography 2.1, 2.2, Civics 4.2 4th: History 1.1, 1.2, Geography 2.1, Civics 4.1 5th: History 1.2, Geography 2.1
5. Assessment Question:	How does the architecture of the Bent County Courthouse reflect the importance and permanence of the legal system in the southeast portion of Colorado?
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 today just as it has been in the past. The symmetrical design, four corners of stone which are unusual for a building of this type, and interesting facades add character to this important building.</p>
7. Connection to Historic Preservation	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 and placed in local, state, and national registers. The Bent County Courthouse was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.



## 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?

**Assessment Question**

How does the architecture of the Bent County Courthouse reflect the importance of both the government and legal system in the southeast portion of Colorado?

Response