

# CSU ARCHITECTURAL VIRTUAL LIBRARY

## STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

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### PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Steamboat Springs, located in The Yampa Valley of Colorado, near the western ridge of the Continental Divide, is surrounded by wilderness area and natural forest space. This area was the summer hunting grounds of the Ute Indians for centuries. The Yampatika Ute and Arapaho tribes utilized the area for its medicinal/mineral springs and considered it to be a sacred place of spiritual and physical healing. The name 'Steamboat Springs' is said to have originated from the early 1800s when French trappers thought they heard the chugging of a steamboat's engine. This sound was actually that of a nearby natural spring which became named the 'Steamboat Spring.'

Today, the town is home to around 13,000 residents and thrives as a world-class skiing and recreational destination to local Coloradans and many others. The historic buildings of the town illustrate its evolution from a self-sufficient wilderness village and cow town to a community centered around farming, ranching, mining, educational and cultural opportunities, ski jumping, recreation center, and resort activities. Documenting these buildings in an inclusively accessible way will increase awareness and excitement within and beyond the community.

### INTERNSHIP GOALS

1. Utilize 360 video camera abilities to capture virtual tour content of historic buildings via Matterport.
2. Research historic building information and embed the findings into the tours using Matteredtags.
3. Incorporate inclusive website principles in all webpage content.
4. Develop interactive and educational content using multiple software.
5. Present findings to community stakeholders.
6. Co-create a curriculum with local teachers that utilizes our tours to spread historical education about the community.

### APPLICATION TO EDUCATION

As a senior pursuing my Bachelor's Degree in Interior Design and Architecture, this internship has given me many skills including confidence in community outreach, research abilities, use of the Matterport Pro2 Camera and software, and more. This summer we worked with local teachers to create activities that will bring these scans and research into their classrooms, furthering future abilities and the knowledge and awareness of the community. I will be able to utilize these skills to document my designs, communicate with clients, and research building codes, history, and more.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

Mountain town communities like Steamboat Springs often take charge of educating their residents and visitors about the rich history and culture of their area. In these towns, the pride is loud, the sentiment is heavy, and the history is crucial. Education, outreach, and preservation are key to the town's success and serve as significant revenue sources. Steamboat Springs employs various methods to achieve success in this areas, including:

#### Local Museums

- Tread of Pioneers Museum
- Steamboat Art Museum

#### Preservation Projects

- Grant applications to restore and preserve historic buildings

#### Historic Documentation and Designation

- Routt County Historic Register (Historic Routt County)
- Colorado State Register of Historic Places (History Colorado)
- National Register of Historic Places (National Park Services)

#### Advocacy

- May Preservation Month

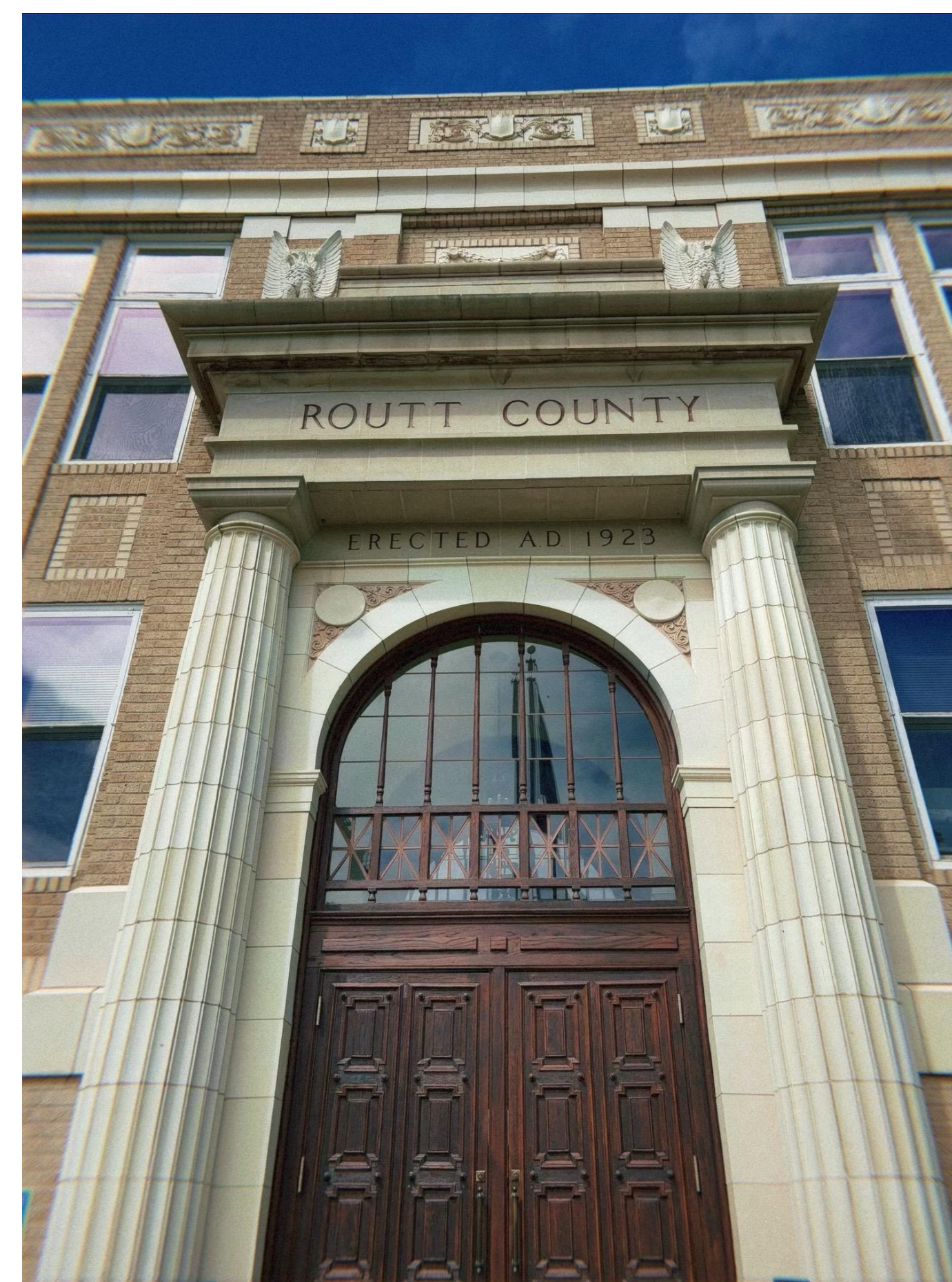
#### Education and Community Engagement Activities

- Free museums
- Social media
- Newsletters

Figure 1. Matterport Pro 2 Camera in Action



Figure 2. Routt County Court House



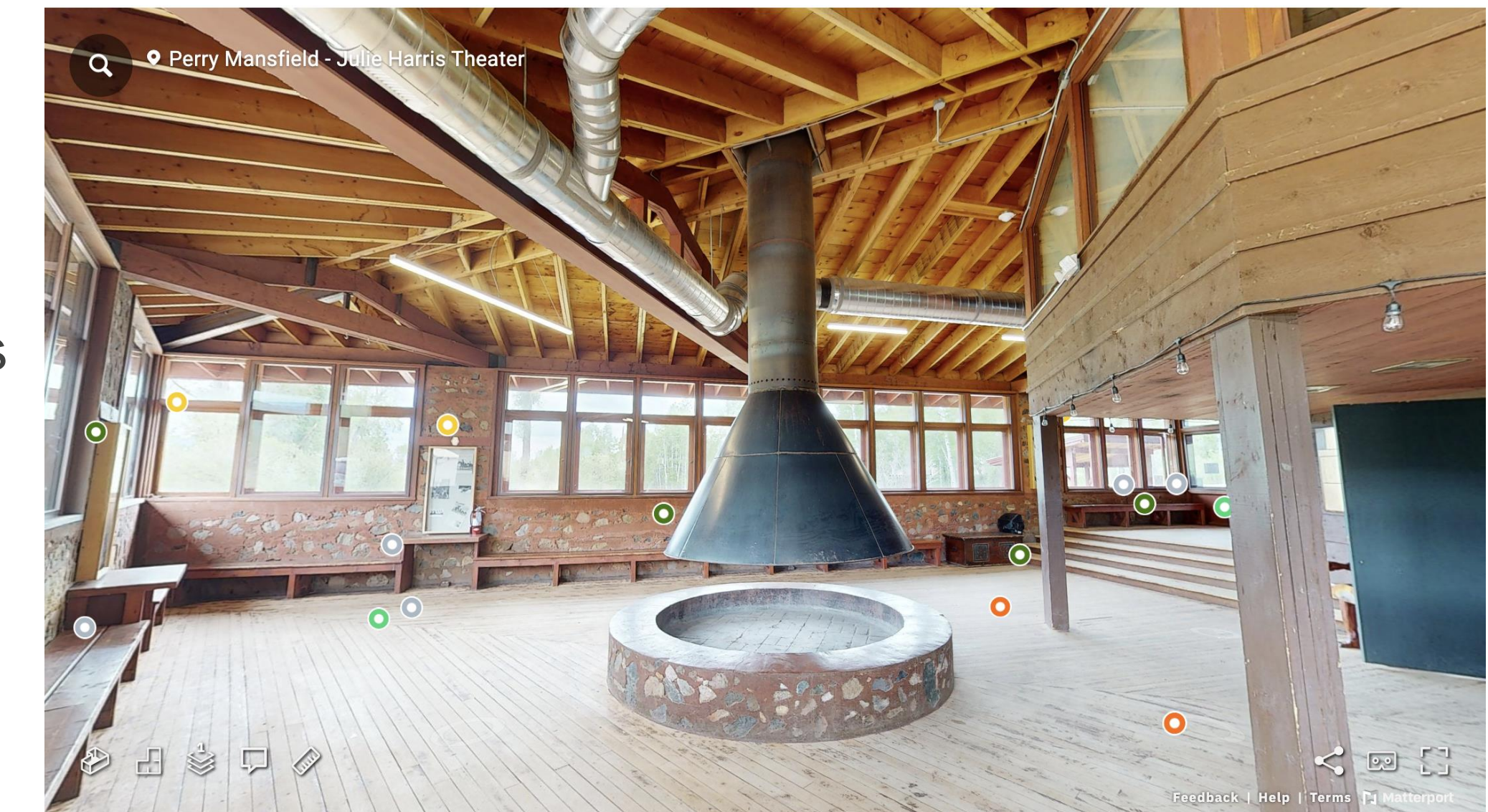
### WHAT YOU LEARNED

This internship has provided a fun and engaging learning experience that taught me:

- Use of Matterport Pro 2 Camera and program
- Use of Matteredtags
- Time management
- Research skills
- Community outreach
- History of Steamboat Springs, CO
- History of specific chosen historic buildings

Figure 3. Virtual Model of Julie Harris Theater at Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp

Gray – Published Articles  
Green – Architectural Materials & Features  
Gold – Images  
Orange – Floorplans  
Light Green - Historical Facts  
Teal – Videos



### NEXT STEPS

CSU AVL is accessible to community members and those interested in learning more. This resource is an excellent way to spread historical education and awareness throughout the state. Steamboat Springs has made significant efforts to preserve its historic sites and educate the public. Further efforts could include:

- Achieving additional funding to continue projects and increase the ability to display
- Host even more activities within communities to spread knowledge

### REFERENCES

Tread of Pioneers Museum. (n.d.-a). *History of steamboat springs*. History of Steamboat Springs | Steamboat Springs, CO - Official Website. <https://www.steamboatsprings.net/179/History-of-Steamboat-Springs>

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