

1. Title / Content Area:	Trinidad: Corazón de Trinidad
2. Historic Site:	Trinidad
3. Developed by:	Michelle Pearson, Adams 12 Five Star School District
4. Grade Level and Standards:	6-8 6th: History 1.1, 1.2, Geography 2.2 7th: History 1.1, 1.2, Geography 2.2, Economics 3.1 8th: History 1.1, 1.2, Geography 2.2, Economics 3.2
5. Assessment Question:	How do the buildings in the Corazon de Trinidad reflect the members of the Trinidad community that built the heart of the city in the late 1800's?
6. Contextual Paragraph	<p>Over time Trinidad, Colorado has been a community that has constantly reinvented itself. Whether referred to as a ranch town, an arts town, and architectural gem, or the home to eclectic businesses, the title will fit and people will often nod their head in agreement.</p> <p>The now historic district served as the retail, financial, and cultural hub of Southern Colorado in part because of the development of local coalfields in the late 1800's. Today, Trinidad is diligently collaborating with several partners to create Corazon de Trinidad Creative District to not only bring life to the historic district, but to reinvigorate Trinidad as a whole.</p>
7. Connection to Historic Preservation	<p>Located in the Southern Rockies, near the border of New Mexico, Trinidad's Corazon de Trinidad was designated in 1973 and placed in the National Register of Historic Places. Many of the buildings in Trinidad were created by the Rapp Brothers, prominent architects who worked in Colorado as well as other states. Today, Trinidad is considered to be one of the most intact 19th century cities in Colorado and was listed as a Save America's Treasures project.</p> <p>There are many significant buildings in the region and Trinidad in particular. The buildings highlighted in this set have significance of their own, but also contribute to</p>



the city as a whole. In collaboration with partners across the state and the History Colorado State Historical Fund, many of the buildings in this historic town are being preserved, restored, and rehabilitated. The significance of each building includes:

**Temple Aaron:** Temple Aaron is significant because it is a visible symbol of the original Jewish Heritage of Colorado and Trinidad, and housed one of the oldest Jewish congregations in Colorado. The building is highly artistic in its architecture and displays brick and sandstone construction with onion top columns and a onion top belfry. The interior retains much of the original architecture as well.

**Jaffa Opera House:** The Jaffa Opera House is significant for its contribution to the commerce and architecture of Trinidad. It is one of the core buildings in the heart of Trinidad and contributed to the theater business as well as commercial endeavors once the theater closed. Additionally, the building is ornate and constructed in a rectangular plan in two stories with a High Victorian Italianate style. The ground floor was originally constructed to house four separate businesses, and over the years has been significantly altered. The theater was located upstairs and housed over 700.

**Bloom Mansion:** Culturally the Frank G Bloom House reminds us of one of the country's largest cattle operations and the commerce of the Santa Fe Trail. Additionally, the house is eclectic and ornate in the architecture showing Victorian, French, and Rococo elements. It also reflects the time period which often focused on eclectic and exotic décor.

# Document Based Question (DBQ)

## Document Set

Business Center of Trinidad, CO



GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. How does this picture give the viewer a feeling of grandeur when looking at the Central Business District of Trinidad in the 1800's?
2. What types of buildings can you identify in this image?
3. Why would the people of historic Trinidad invest in the construction of buildings that provide a visitor with a feeling of importance and high architectural style?
4. What other movement in Colorado invested in the creation of a grand downtown which would attract businesses and visitors alike between 1890 and the early 1920's?

<https://www.loc.gov/item/95501273/>

Bloom Mansion Museum Complex in Trinidad, CO



<https://www.loc.gov/item/2017688753/>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What architectural elements lead you to the conclusion that this is a Second Empire Style building?
2. Why would a cattle baron such as Frank Bloom build this type of home in 1882? How might it compare to other houses in Colorado and in Trinidad at the time?
3. Why would this building be an important one to place in the National Register of Historic Places?

Jaffa Opera House, Trinidad, CO



<http://www.jmaw.org/temple-aaron-trinidad-colorado/>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What type of architectural features do you see on the building storefront?
2. Why would an architect design a building that houses business storefronts on the bottom floor, and an opera house on the top floor? How does this compare to the way historic buildings get used today?
3. Why would people want an opera house in Trinidad in the Late 1800's?

Temple Aaron, Trinidad, CO



<https://www.loc.gov/item/2017688757/>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why would a temple be important to people in the city of Trinidad? What does this building tell us about the demographics of Trinidad?
2. What prominent architect designed the temple, and who financed it?
3. What role did this temple play in the history of Colorado until 2016?
4. What is its role today?

Architects of Colorado Biographical Sketch of Isaac Rapp, History Colorado OAHP

 OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY  
and HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ARCHITECTS OF COLORADO  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Architect: Rapp, Isaac Hamilton  
Birth/Death Dates: 1854 - 1933  
Practice Dates: 1888 - 1921  
Firms: Bulger and Rapp 1889-1892  
I.H. and W.M. Rapp 1892-1921

[http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/Guides/Architects\\_rapp.pdf](http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/Guides/Architects_rapp.pdf)

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What role did the Rapp Brothers play in the development of Trinidad?
2. How did their body of work leave a lasting impact on Trinidad?

**Assessment Question**

How do the buildings in the Corazon de Trinidad reflect the members of the Trinidad community that built the heart of the city in the late 1800's?

Response