

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

- Date _____ Initials _____
- _____ Determined Eligible-NR
- _____ Determined Not Eligible-NR
- _____ Determined Eligible-SR
- _____ Determined Not Eligible-SR
- _____ Need Data
- _____ Contributes to Eligible NR District
- _____ Noncontributing to Eligible NR District

I. IDENTIFICATION

1. **Resource Number:** 5CF406.50
2. **Temporary Resource Number:** 64
3. **County:** Chaffee
4. **City:** Salida
5. **Historic Building Name:** Welch House
6. **Current Building Name:** Master Electric
7. **Building Address:** 128-32 E. 1st St.
8. **Owner Name and Address:** Schirmer, Christopher K. & Paula, 128 E. 1st St., Salida, CO 81201

Parcel Number: 368132404090
SHF Grant Number: 2001-02-004

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. **P.M.** N.M. **Township** 50N **Range** 9E
 1/4 1/4 SE 1/4 SE 1/4 **of Section** 32
10. **UTM Reference**
Zone 13 **Easting** 413663 **Northing** 4265554
11. **USGS Quad Name:** Salida East, Colo.
Year: 1994 **Map Scale:** 7.5' Attach photo copy of appropriate map section.
12. **Lot (s):** 21 **Block(s):** 4
Addition: Salida Original Townsite **Year of Addition:** 1880
13. **Boundary Description and Justification:**
 Boundary includes the building and the urban parcel on which it is situated.

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

14. **Building Plan (footprint, shape):** Rectangular
15. **Dimensions in Feet: Length** 82 **X Width** 23
16. **Stories:** 2
17. **Primary External Wall Material(s) (enter no more than two):**
 Brick
18. **Roof Configuration (enter no more than one):**
 Flat
19. **Primary External Roof Material (enter no more than one):** Asphalt
20. **Special Features (enter all that apply):**
 Decorative Cornice, Segmental Arch Window (rear), Porch (rear)
21. **General Architectural Description:**

Two-story rectangular brick commercial building with flat roof and elaborate metal cornice between fleur-de-lis decorated end brackets. Cornice has metal stamped to resemble balustrade at top, bands of molding, a frieze with running shell ornaments above an architrave with foliate running ornament. Supporting the entablature are classical half-columns rising from the first story cornice. The columns flank tall 1/1-light double-hung sash windows and are paired in the center and at the ends of the wall. The narrow storefront cornice is ornamented with molding and the lintel above the storefront has panels of ornament with garlands and ribbons. There is an entrance to the upper

story at the west end with a paneled door flanked by ornamented square metal columns. The storefront has a central inset entrance with a wood door with large rectangular light topped by a transom. There is a decorated metal column at the east end of the façade. Plate glass display windows with brick kickplates flank the entrance, and there is a band of clerestory windows above the display windows and entrance.

22. **Architectural Style/Building Type:** Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements/Commercial Style

23. **Landscaping or Special Setting Features:**

N/A

24. **Associated Buildings, Features, or Objects:**

None

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. **Date of Construction:** Estimate 1898-1904 Actual

Source of Information: Sanborn Maps, 1898 and 1904

26. **Architect:** Unknown

Source of Information:

27. **Builder/Contractor:** Unknown

Source of Information:

28. **Original Owner:** Unknown

Source of Information:

29. **Construction History (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions):**

The 1898 Sanborn map shows a different frame building on this lot. The present building is shown on the 1904 Sanborn map, when it had an opening into the building to the west, which was then vacant. The 1909 map notes that the opening was bricked. The 1929 map shows an open porch across the rear. The present second story deck on the rear appears fairly new.

30. **Original Location:** Yes **Date of Moves**

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. **Original Use(s):** Domestic/Hotel

Commerce and Trade/Restaurant

32. **Intermediate Use(s)** Commerce and Trade/Specialty Store

Domestic

33. **Current Use(s):** Commerce and Trade/Specialty Store

Domestic

34. **Site Type(s):** Commercial Building

35. **Historical Background:**

This building was erected between 1898 and 1904, based on Sanborn maps. According to the 2001 Salida Walking Tour, the building was originally intended to be a pharmacy. The 1904 map shows the present building, which is labeled "restaurant." The 1903-04 city directory lists the Welch House, operated by Mrs. Mary Welch, at this address. The Welch House advertised furnished rooms and a restaurant. Mrs. Welch's family also lived here, including Kate (a student), Owen (a student), and Mrs. Pearl Welch. Mrs. Welch's boarding house was listed in the 1905-06 city directory at this address. The 1909 city directory listed the Salida Café at this address, together with furnished rooms offered by Mabel Button. The Salida Café advertised "Strictly Home Cooking," and offered single meals for 25 cents and 21 meals for \$5. The 1911-12 city directory indicates that Mary Welch was managing furnished rooms upstairs. By 1914 the building housed a wallpaper and paint firm on the ground floor. The 1922-23 city directory indicated that Charles A. and Lena Morris lived here and had a wallpaper and paint store in the building. The same business was listed here in 1927 and 1930-31. The 1945 Sanborn map indicates a wallpaper and paint business here. By 1951 the first story housed Reekers & Son (wallpaper and paint), which included G.A. and W.D. Reekers. The same business was still here in 1961, owned by Dale G. Reekers. The Salida Walking Tour reports that the basement was used as a shooting gallery at some point, and that bullet holes are found there.

Today, Christopher and Paula Schirmer have a residence upstairs and use the ground floor for their electrical contracting business.

The 2001 Salida Walking Tour states that the stamped metal façade of the building was produced by Mesker Bros. of St. Louis and notes that the metal facades were popular throughout the United States from the 1880s until 1910. "It was part of a national trend toward industrialized building technology and mass-produced ornaments." Mesker Brothers of St. Louis was "one of two national companies--the other being George L. Mesker & Co. of Evansville, Indiana--which produced entire facades. The firms were operated by three sons of metalsmith John Bernard Mesker. Ben and Frank Mesker formed their own company in 1881, while brother George continued the family business in Evansville."

"These companies provided free design services, and their catalogs offering hundreds of designs had a great impact on small town commercial architecture. Generally, the buildings with metal facades had three brick walls and a front wall of wood, to which the stamped metal was nailed."

36. Sources of Information:

Chaffee County Assessor records; Salida City Directories; Sanborn Insurance Maps; Salida Walking Tours; Survey Form, 132 E. 1st, 1981; Salida Mail, 2 April 1909.

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local Landmark Designation: No

Date of Designation:

Designating Authority:

38. Applicable National Register Criteria:

- A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
 - B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
 - C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
 - D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to history or prehistory.
- Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G (See Manual).

X Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria.

39. Area(s) of Significance:

40. Period of Significance:

41. Level of Significance:

42. Statement of Significance:

This building is significant for its association with the development of downtown Salida, having served in the early twentieth century as space for a restaurant and furnished rooms and later as a paint and wallpaper shop with upstairs residence. The building is notable for the stamped metal façade of its upper story and the metal details of the first story.

43. Assessment of Historic Physical Integrity Related to Significance:

The building has been moderately altered. The storefront of the first story has been remodeled, although the first story retains its cornice, lintel, metal columns, and entrance to the second story. The upper story appears intact.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register Field Eligibility Assessment: Not eligible

45. Is there National Register district potential? Discuss. N/A

This building is located within an existing National Register district, the Salida Downtown Historic District.

If there is NRHP district potential, indicate contributing status: N/A

46. If the building is in an existing NRHP district, indicate contributing status: Contributing

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

Photographic Reference(s): 22: 4, 6; 23: 23.

Negatives Filed At: City of Salida

Photographer: Roger Whitacre

48. Report Title: Downtown Salida Historic Buildings Survey, 2001-02

49. Date(s): September 2002

50. Recorder(s): R.L. Simmons/T.H. Simmons

51. Organization: Front Range Research Associates, Inc.

52. Address: 3635 W. 46th Ave.

53. Phone Number(s): (303) 477-7597

NOTE: Please attach a sketch map, a photocopy of the USGS quad map indicating the resource's location, and photographs.

Colorado Historical Society-Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1300 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80203 (303) 866-3395

Downtown Salida Historic Buildings Survey, 2001-02
Sketch Map



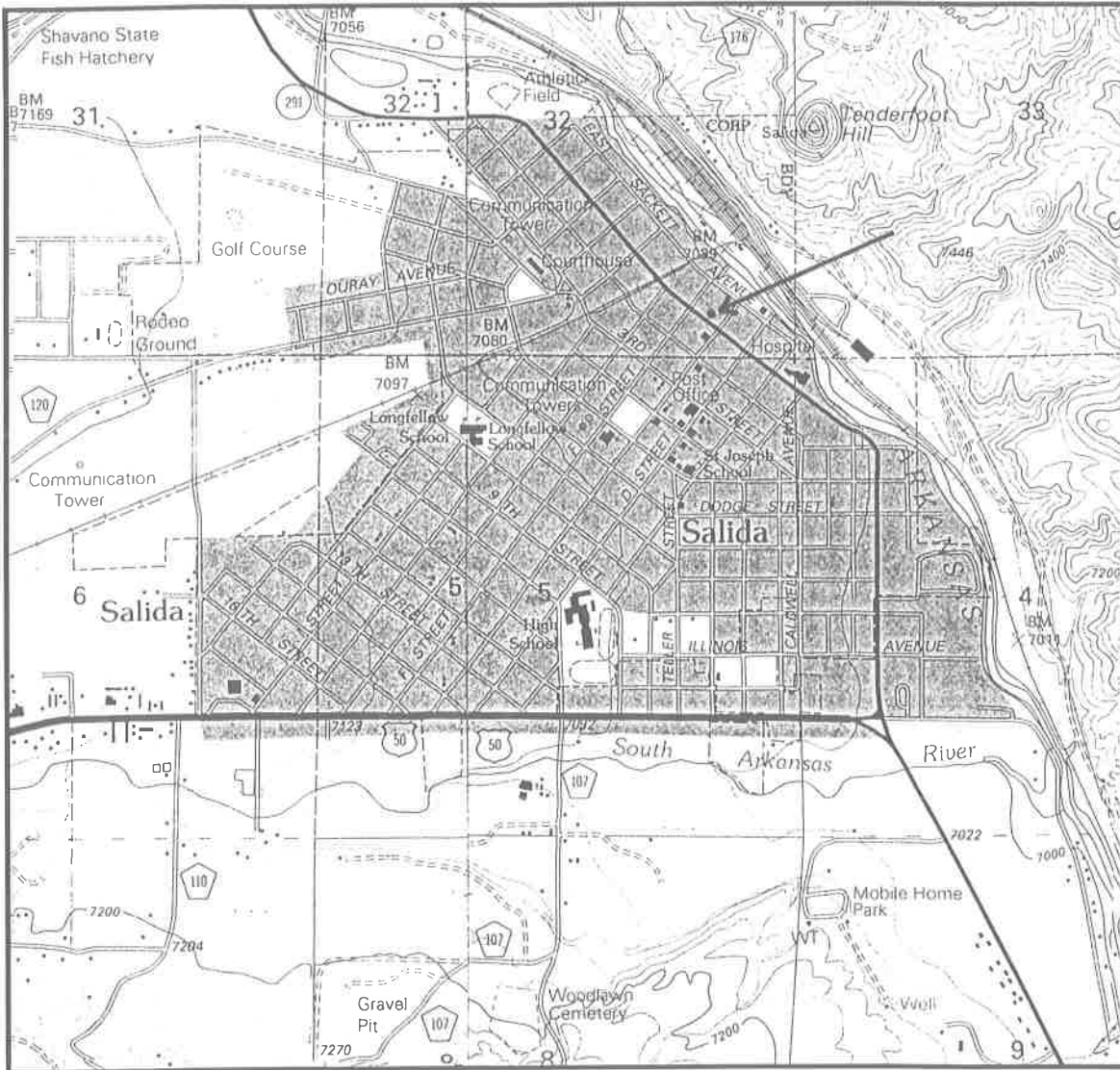
128 E. 1st Street, 5CF406.50

20 0 20 40 Feet



Downtown Salida Historic Buldings Survey
USGS Location Map

128-32 E. 1st 5CF406.50



Mosaic of extracts from U.S. Geological Survey, "Salida East, Colo.," and "Salida West, Colo.," (Denver, Colo.: U.S. Geological Survey, 1994).

