

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

# Architectural Inventory Form

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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: 5CF406.77
2. Temporary Resource Number: 133
3. County: Chaffee
4. City: Salida
5. Historic Building Name: Laura Evans House, Victory Hotel
6. Current Building Name: Mon-Ark Shrine Club
7. Building Address: 129 W. Sackett Ave.
8. Owner Name and Address: Mon-Ark Shrine Club Holding Corp, 337 Ouray Ave., Salida, CO 81201

Parcel Number: 368132405375  
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 413612 Northing 4265693

11. USGS Quad Name: Salida East, Colo.  
Year: 1994 Map Scale: 7.5' Attach photo copy of appropriate map section.

12. Lot (s): 7-10 Block(s): 5  
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): Irregular  
15. Dimensions in Feet: Length 87 X Width 83

16. Stories: 2  
17. Primary External Wall Material(s) (enter no more than two):  
Stucco

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):  
None

### 21. General Architectural Description:

Two-story stuccoed building with one-story wing to east. Flat roof stepped down toward rear. Façade has three segmental arched sash and transom windows with stuccoed sills and lintels on upper story. Transoms are Queen Anne style with colored glass lights. First story has inset round arched entrance with concrete steps and metal railing. Flush panel door and covered up transom. One-story wing has flush panel wood door with covered up transom. West wall of building has small round window toward front end.

22. Architectural Style/Building Type: No 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 ins. maps, 1898 & 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):

This building was originally a rectangle with small open porches on the west and south. Between 1904 and 1909, the rear porch was removed and a one-story rear addition was built that projected beyond the west wall of the main building; it had an open porch on its east wall. A two-unit one-story building was built a short distance to the east between 1904 and 1909; between 1909 and 1914 a small connector linked the main building to the building to the east. Between 1929 and 1945, one-story additions were constructed on the west and at the southeast. The building was heavily stuccoed and a complete connection with the east building was accomplished at some point between the late 1930s and 1960.

Original Location: Yes Date of Moves

#### V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original Use(s): Commerce and Trade/Business/Brothel

32. Intermediate Use(s) Domestic/Hotel

33. Current Use(s): Social/Clubhouse

34. Site Type(s): Bordello, Hotel, Fraternal Lodge

35. Historical Background:

The main part of this building was erected between 1898 and 1904 while the eastern portion dates to 1904-09, according to Sanborn fire insurance maps. The 1943 year of construction reported by the Assessor is not correct. The 1904 Sanborn map identifies this building as "female boarding," a Sanborn Map Company euphemism for a place of prostitution. The 1909 and 1914 maps show the same use. Although the 1929 Sanborn labels the building as a dwelling and the 1945 map shows it as the "Victory Hotel," by most accounts the buildings continued to function as a place of prostitution. The block of W. Sackett Avenue (then known as W. Front Street) was the town's Red Light District and contained a number of houses of prostitution. Railroad workers and travelers provided a large client base for the district.

Mildred Bommer was the head of this house in 1905-06. Salida's most famous madam, Laura Evans, lived here for many years. According to an account in *One Hundred Years in the Heart of the Rockies*, Ms. Evans married young, deserted her family, changed her name, and became a prostitute. She came west to Denver's Market Street and spent three years in Leadville, before settling in Salida in the late 1890s. In 1905 she operated a bordello in the building at 113 W. Sackett Avenue. She opened this parlor house in about 1910 on W. Sackett Avenue. This building is visible on 1926 and late 1930s overview photographs of Salida taken from Tenderfoot Hill. In about 1906, Evans acquired a row of cribs across the street (130 W. Sackett Avenue). She continued to operate her business until 1950, when the local District Attorney finally forced her to close.

Accounts of Laura Evans's life in Salida are replete with numerous good works. During the influenza epidemic of

1918, she reportedly suspended operations and provided rooms for the sick and sent her girls to aid in nursing flu victims. During the Depression, food baskets and coal were provided to needy families. Abused women were given shelter. One Salida politician remarked: "I doubt if anybody will ever know how many people Laura helped. She was an entire Department of Social Services long before there was such a thing."

At the time of the 1920 Census, she reported her age as forty-seven and stated that she was a native of Alabama. She listed her occupation as the keeper of a lodging house. Her "lodgers" included seven women in their twenties and thirties and a sixty-one year old African-American cook.

After her house was closed down in 1950, she rented rooms to railroad workers. Ms. Evans died in this house on 6 April 1953. Her family offered to donate the property to church and civic organizations, and the Mon-Ark Shrine Club eventually acquired the building. The organization still occupies it.

### 36. Sources of Information:

Chaffee County Assessor records; Salida City Directories; Sanborn Insurance Maps; Cynthia Pasquale, One Hundred Years in the Heart of the Rockies (Salida: Arkansas Valley Pub. Co., 1980), 91-94; Eleanor Fry, Salida: the Early Years (Salida: Arkansas Valley Pub. Co., 2001), 220-21; U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population, 1920, manuscript returns, Chaffee County, Colorado, enumeration district 9; Russ Collman, ed., Trails Among the Columbine (Denver: Sundance Publications, 1992), 246-47 (photo) and 264-65 (photo)..

## 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 associated with the history of prostitution in Salida, and most notably as the home of the city's most famous madam, Laura Evans. Alterations to the building have diminished its architectural significance.

### 43. Assessment of Historic Physical Integrity Related to Significance:

The building has been covered with a heavy coat of stucco, which has covered up many of its architectural features. It retains sash and transom windows on the upper story and a small round window on the west wall.

## 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 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: Noncontributing

## VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

Photographic Reference(s): 3: 6, 8, 10, 12.

Negatives Filed At: City of Salida

Photographer: Roger Whitacre

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

Resource Number: 5CF406.77

Architectural Inventory Form

Temporary Resource Number: 133

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49. Date(s): September 2002

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

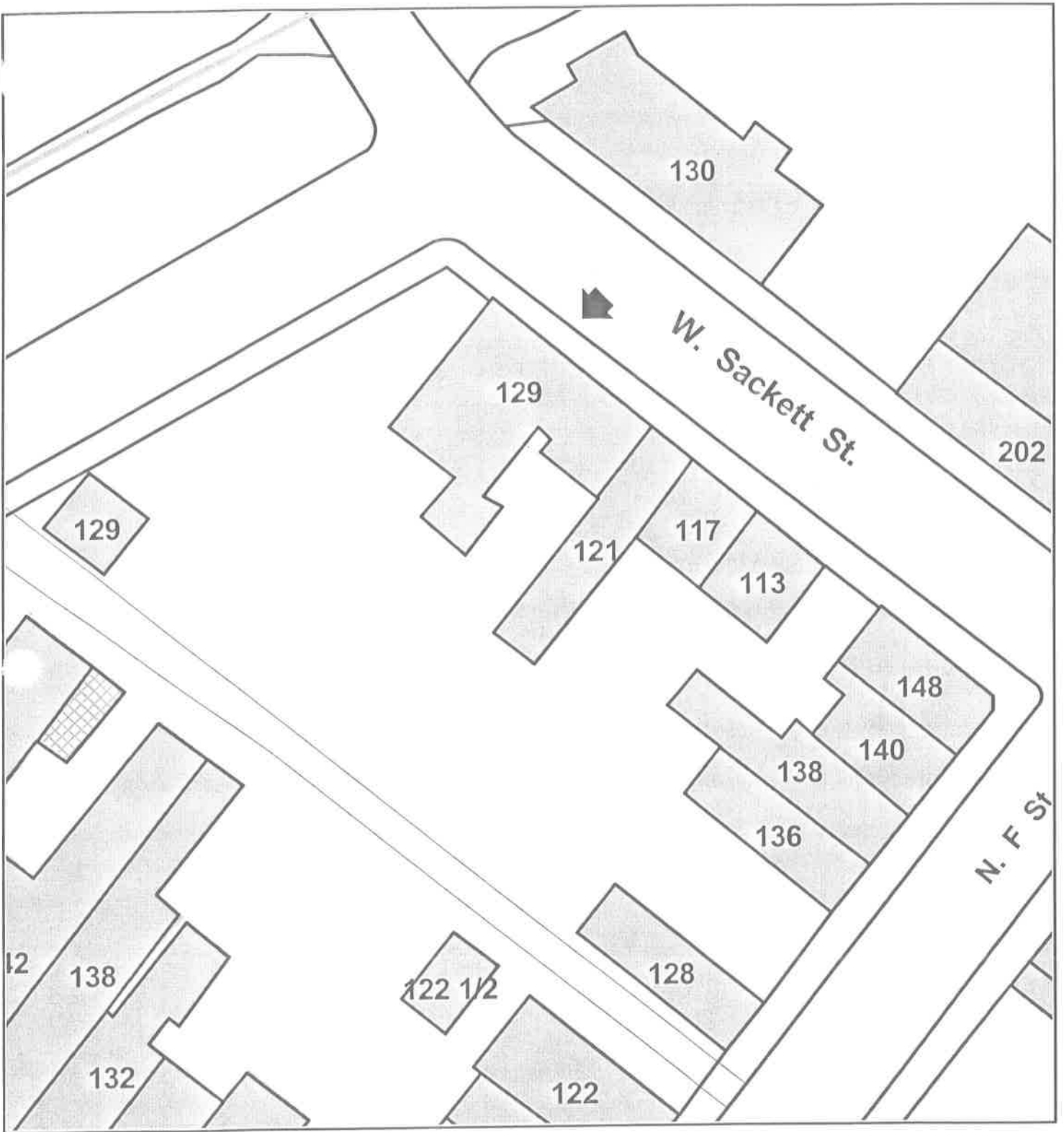
51. Organization: Front Range Research Associates, Inc.

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



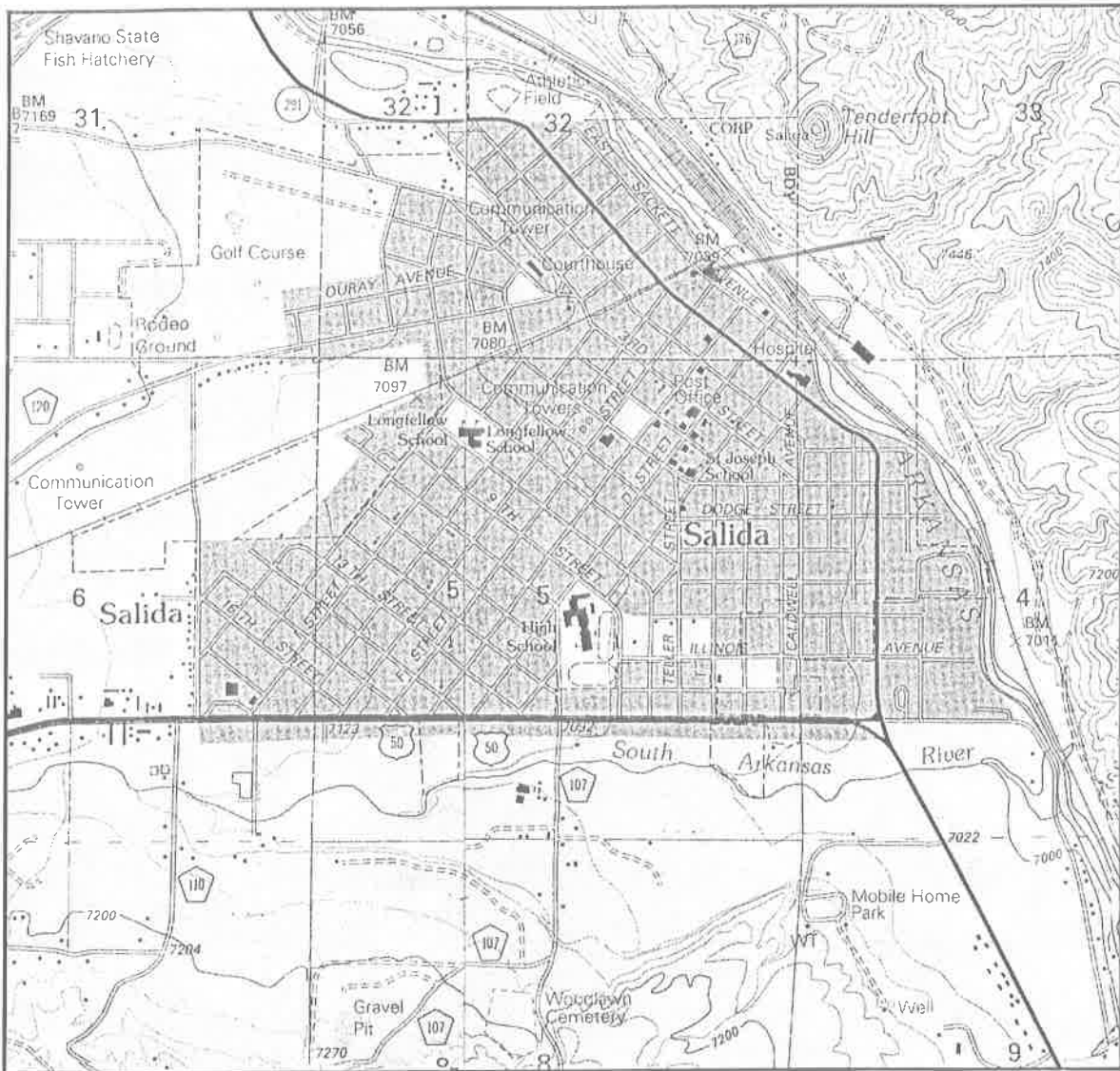
129 W. Sackett Avenue, 5CF406.77

20 0 20 40 Feet



**Downtown Salida Historic Buildings Survey, 2001-02**  
**USGS Location Map**

129 W Sackett St, 5CF406.77



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

