

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: 5CF1579
2. Temporary Resource Number: 102
3. County: Chaffee
4. City: Salida
5. Historic Building Name: Salida Post Office
6. Current Building Name: Developmental Opportunities
7. Building Address: 203 E St.
8. Owner Name and Address: Developmental Training Services, Inc., P.O. Box 2080, Canon City, CO 81212

Parcel Number: 380705130111
SHF Grant Number: 2001-02-004

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. N.M. Township 49N Range 9E
1/4 1/4 NE 1/4 NE 1/4 of Section 5
10. UTM Reference
Zone 13 Easting 413629 Northing 4265376
11. USGS Quad Name: Salida East, Colo.
Year: 1994 Map Scale: 7.5' Attach photo copy of appropriate map section.
12. Lot (s): 23, 24, 25, 26 Block(s): 30
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): Other
15. Dimensions in Feet: Length 86 X Width 59
16. Stories: 1
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):
Chimney
21. General Architectural Description:

One-story variegated red and orange brick post office building with flat roof with metal coping and raised brick foundation. Façade (west) has projecting band on upper wall. Salida, Colorado is spelled in metal letters above the band. There is a center entrance with round arched brick lintel with stone keystone and fanlight above double doors with horizontal lights facing a concrete stoop with metal railings. Lanterns flank the entrance. On each side of the entrance are two 8/8-light double-hung sash windows with gauged brick lintels with stone keystones. There is a cornerstone with the date 1935 and names of the Secretary of the Treasury, Postmaster General, Supervising

Architect, and Supervising Engineer. The south side of the façade has a metal railing enclosing the light well of the lower story, while the north side has a pedestrian ramp with metal railings.

North wall is divided into two bays by a brick pier, with a stepped back section at the rear. The west bay continues the projecting band of the façade. The east bay has a course of bricks on end above the windows and marking the water table (exterior horizontal ledge that prevents water from running down the surface below). The west bay has three 8/8-light double-hung sash windows with gauged brick lintels with stone keystones and basement window well with stairs at west end. The east bay has four 4/4-light double-hung sash windows with divided transoms and exposed basement level with four windows and window well with metal railing. One-story set back red brick projection on rear has flat roof with metal coping and projecting hood sheltering east wall, which has loading dock and three paneled and glazed garage doors. South wall has three 8/8-light double-hung sash windows toward west, with projecting band above and exposed basement and light well below with metal pipe railing. East of this are two 8/8-light double-hung sash windows with brick panels above and two windows with divided transoms further east. There is a brick chimney at the southeast corner.

22. **Architectural Style/Building Type:** Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Colonial Revival

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

Grass lawn, as well as low bushes and trees in front and on north.

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

None

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. **Date of Construction: Estimate**

Actual 1935

Source of Information: Cornerstone

26. **Architect:** Louis A. Simon

Source of Information: Cornerstone

27. **Builder/Contractor:** Unknown

Source of Information:

28. **Original Owner:** US Treasury Department

Source of Information: Cornerstone

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

The footprint of the building appears to be unchanged since the 1945 Sanborn map.

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

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. **Original Use(s):** Government/Post Office

32. **Intermediate Use(s):** Government/Post Office

33. **Current Use(s):** Education

34. **Site Type(s):** Post Office

35. **Historical Background:**

This building was constructed in 1935 as the Salida U.S. Post Office. The site was formerly occupied by the Bella Vista Terrace. The post office was designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury. Louis A. Simon was the Supervising Architect and George Von Nerta was the Supervising Engineer.

Salida received a post office designation in 1881. The facility was housed in various private buildings over the years before a building of its own was constructed. It was located at 124 F in 1886 through 1890 (Central Block), at 113 E. 1st Street (IOOF Building) in 1893, 138 F Street in 1904 through 1909 (Disman-Alger Block), and at 127-31 Lower F Street in the 1914-1929 period.

The Salida Post Office was constructed during the Great Depression, the greatest economic downturn in the nation's

history. To stimulate the economy the federal government spent massive amounts of money on public works projects. Postal historian James H. Bruns relates that the government spent approximately \$700 million on federal building construction during the period, erecting 40,000 new buildings and improving 85,000 others: "Once again Congressional leaders and governmental officials gladly assumed the role of latter day Johnny Appleseeds, sprinkling post offices all over the countryside."

The great majority of post offices built during this period are examples of what came to be known as the "Starved Classical" architectural style. The style "featured symmetrical designs with classical proportions, but without the popular classical elements, such as bold porticos, columns, and pediments. With this style, utility and economy outweighed exterior opulence."

This building continued to serve as Salida's post office into the 1980s.

36. Sources of Information:

Chaffee County Assessor records; Salida City Directories; Sanborn Insurance Maps; Historic U.S. Post Offices Thematic Resources Nomination (Utah), 1988; William H. Bauer, et al, Colorado Post Offices, 1859-1989 (Golden, Colo.: Colorado Railroad Museum, 1990), 127; James H. Bruns, Great American Post Offices (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1998), 85.

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local Landmark Designation: No **Date of Designation:**

Designating Authority:

38. Applicable National Register Criteria:

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

39. Area(s) of Significance: Architecture
Politics/Government

40. Period of Significance: 1935-1953

41. Level of Significance: Local

42. Statement of Significance:

This building is associated with the development of governmental facilities in Salida during the Great Depression, having been erected in 1935 as the post office. The building's design reflects the trend toward modern, simplified, symmetrical designs through its rectangular plan, flat façade, Colonial Revival influences, and quality brick construction. This style is often referred to as "Starved Classicism."

43. Assessment of Historic Physical Integrity Related to Significance:

The building appears to maintain substantial historic physical integrity. The metal railings and pedestrian ramps are nonoriginal.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register Field Eligibility Assessment: Eligible

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

This building is located outside 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: N/A

I. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photographic Reference(s): 21: 21, 23, 25, 27.

Negatives Filed At: City of Salida

Photographer: Roger Whitacre

Resource Number: 5CF1579
Temporary Resource Number: 102

Architectural Inventory Form
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48. **Report Title:** Downtown Salida Historic Buildings Survey, 2001-02

Date(s): September 2002

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

49. **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

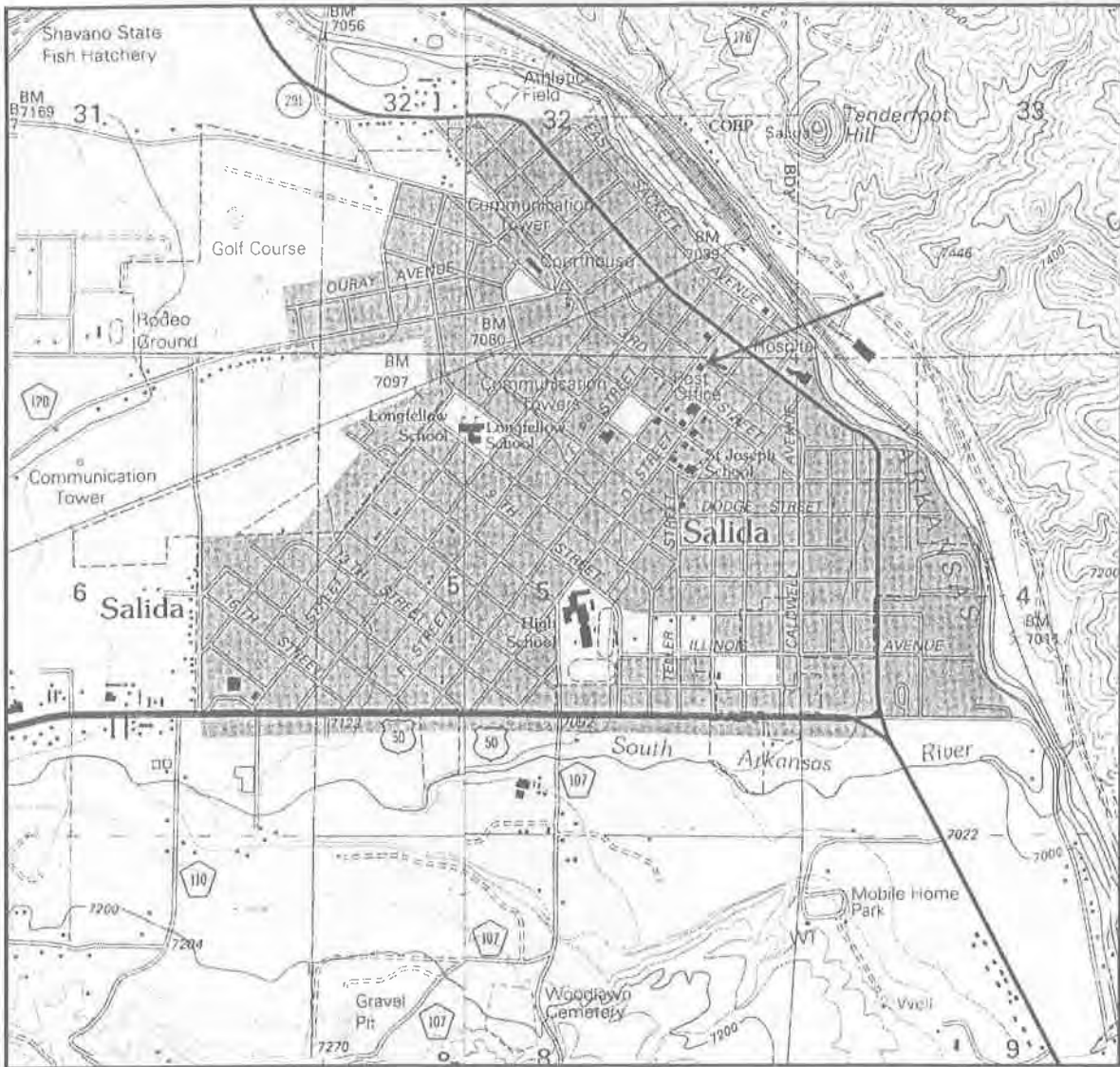


203 E Street, 5CF1579



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

203 E St, 5CF1579



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

