

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: 5CF406.35
2. Temporary Resource Number: 14
3. County: Chaffee
4. City: Salida
5. Historic Building Name: Crews-Beggs Mercantile Co.
6. Current Building Name: Monarch Brokers, Berry Patch
7. Building Address: 207-11 F St.
8. Owner Name and Address: Lobocchiaro, Lawrence A., 9150 Co. Rd. 166, Salida, CO 81201

Parcel Number: 368132431268
SHF Grant Number: 2001-02-004

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. N.M. Township 50N Range 9E
1/4 1/4 SW 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 32

10. UTM Reference
Zone 13 Easting 413529 Northing 4265453

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

12. Lot (s): 11-13 (part) Block(s): 31
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): L-Shaped
15. Dimensions in Feet: Length 92 X Width 61
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 (low arch)
21. General Architectural Description:

Two-story brick commercial building with flat roof with raised center parapet on façade with painted sign (now faded). Sloping material at top of walls flanking parapet. Cornice of corbelled brick with contrasting buff colored brick between corbels. Upper story is divided into four bays by brick pilasters that have arched brackets at tops. Bays of upper story have brick panels under corbels (one on north is painted "Dress Making" and one above sash and transom window "Millinery") and variety of window configurations. Northern bay has two tall, narrow, double-hung sash windows flanking paired, narrower, taller, flat arch sash and transom windows; there is dentil molding

above windows. Double-hung sash windows have slightly arched lintels of gauged brick. Second bay from north has two double-hung sash windows with low arched lintels. Third bay from north end has very large flat arch sash and transom window with dentil molding above window. Fourth bay has two double-hung sash windows with low arched lintels. Continuous sill course of stone and brick between pilasters.

First story of façade has wide metal lintel with rosettes, storefront cornice, and large band of divided metal frame clerestory windows above metal frame plate glass display windows. The awning apparatus remains. The first story is divided into three storefront bays, now with two stores operating. Storefront to north has center, inset entrance with metal frame glazed door with transom flanked by angled sidewalls and metal frame display windows with vertical board siding under the windows. Inset center entrance to second story has door with large rectangular light and transom. Second storefront has center entrance with wood door with large rectangular light and transom and is flanked by angled walls with metal frame display windows. Kickplate area under the windows is a smooth painted material. This bay is enframed with fluted flat pilasters. There is a wood door with rectangular light and transom in an angled wall flanking the entrance on the south. The final storefront has metal frame plate glass display windows.

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** **Actual** 1900

Source of Information: Fry, "Salida: The Early Years," 89.

26. **Architect:** Unknown

Source of Information:

27. **Builder/Contractor:** Unknown

Source of Information:

28. **Original Owner:** Charles Webster Crews & R.H. Beggs

Source of Information: Fry, "Salida: The Early Years, 89.

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

This parcel of land was vacant in 1898, according to the Sanborn map of that year. In 1904, the current two-story building is shown, with a rectangular passageway at the rear. The plan of the building remained the same through 1945.

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

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. **Original Use(s):** Commerce and Trade/Department Store

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

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

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

35. **Historical Background:**

Eleanor Fry reports that this building was erected by Charles Webster Crews and R.H. Beggs in 1900. C.W. Crews moved to Colorado as a prospector. After five years of mining he entered the clothing business, operating out of a Leadville cabin. Robert Henry Beggs, his uncle, was principal at Whittier School in Denver. Beggs furnished the money for the business and Crews operated the store, whose philosophy was "One Price, Plain Figures, and Spot Cash." The store was originally known as R.H. Beggs Dry Goods. In 1888 the company opened the R.H. Beggs and Co. store in Pueblo. The business incorporated in 1894 and its name changed to Crews-Beggs Dry Goods Company, Inc. That was the name of the firm when it opened its Salida store. In 1923 Henry Schuck purchased the

Leadville and Salida stores. Schuck managed the two stores until 1925, when the three stores formed three separate corporations: Crews-Beggs Dry Goods in Pueblo; Crews-Beggs Mercantile in Salida; and Crews-Beggs Trading in Leadville. Schuck served as manager of the Leadville store until his death and was succeeded by his son. The Crews-Beggs Mercantile Co. in Salida was operated by J.J. McKenna, president and manager, and Patrick McKenna, secretary, until 1947. In that year, the McKennas sold their stock, and the store was managed by H.W. Blakey.

This was the first location of the store in Salida. In 1908, the "Salida Mail" stated, "It is only fair to say that our people can do as well if not better at the Crews-Beggs Mercantile Company's store than at any other place in this section of Colorado...It is a mammoth department store, we might say, and they have the finest lines of everything in the way of merchandise, groceries, furniture, shoes, millinery, dry goods, shelf and heavy hardware, etc., at rock bottom prices." The store was then the largest department store in Southern Colorado "by far," and had in addition to this "large and imposing brick structure on F street," warehouses in the city. The business was described as "a metropolitan, twentieth century, department store, well lighted by electricity, and is equipped with every appliance that ingenuity, long experience and unlimited capital can procure..." The store moved to 300 F St. in 1914 and 230 F St. in 1923 (neither of these building is as intact as this one). In 1948, the store boasted: "No mergers or affiliations have marred the Crews-Beggs record as a truly independent store. We buy our merchandise direct from manufacturers of high reputation." When the store closed in Salida in 2000, it was the last Crews-Beggs store in operation in the state.

The 1914 Sanborn map shows the building divided into three businesses: a millinery (211), a notions store (209), and a grocery (207). The 1922-23 city directory indicates that this was then known as the McCullough Building. Mrs. Ruth A. Spino Dry Goods operated here during those years. The same business was listed here (209) in 1927-28, together with Nu-Way Bootery, Paul M. Wilson, manager. In 1927 the "Salida Mail" reported that "Spino Dry Goods Co. and The Bootery are Busy Retail Stores." The article stated that Ruth Spino and her husband, Gabriel, who operated the dry goods, were married in Salida in 1900. They moved to Pennsylvania, where they engaged in a successful business before returning to Colorado in 1908. They started a business in Leadville before returning to Salida in 1909 and starting a small store at 136 W. 1st Street. As their business expanded, they required larger quarters and bought this building. The Spinosa sold general dry goods, piece goods, dress goods, notions, novelties, ladies ready to wear, millinery, and shoes. By 1930-31, 209 F housed Spino's Style Shoppe (women's clothing) and 211 F contained the Bootery, operated by Gabriel Spino. The 1945 Sanborn map indicates two stores in the building. In 1951, B&C Dry Goods (Elizabeth and Amelia Cooper, proprietors) was located in 211, while 209 is not listed. The upstairs was occupied by four women. In 1961, Tuttle's Trading Post sporting goods store operated by Richard Tuttle was conducting business here and the upstairs was known as the Spino Apartments.

36. Sources of Information:

Salida Mail, 21 October 1927, 4; Joanne West Dodds, They All Came to Pueblo (Virginia Beach, Va.: Donning Co., 1994), 139-40; Eleanor Fry, Salida: The Early Years (Salida: Arkansas Valley Publishing Co., 2001), 89; Salida Mail, 10 August 1906 and 2 July 1948; Salida Walking Tours; Chaffee County Assessor records; Salida City Directories; Sanborn Insurance Maps; Leadville City Directory, 1898.

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:

Period of Significance:

1. Level of Significance:

Statement of Significance:

This building was erected to house the Crews-Beggs department store in Salida in 1900. The company was reportedly the largest department store in southern Colorado during the first half of the twentieth century and continued to operate in Salida until 2000. The Crews-Beggs firm operated three stores in Colorado; this was the longest-lived. The building is associated with the history of department stores in the state. The building's architecture is representative of commercial construction in Salida during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and is notable for its parapet roof, decorative cornice, asymmetrical window arrangement of the upper story, contrasting brickwork, and brick pilasters. The first story has been altered, but retains some original features, such as its central entrance to the second story and storefront framed by fluted pilasters. This building may qualify for the State Register of Historic Places, particularly if it is the best remaining representative of the buildings that housed a Crews Beggs store in the state.

43. Assessment of Historic Physical Integrity Related to Significance:

The first story of this building has been modified, principally with replacement clerestory and display windows and kickplate and entrance alterations. The upper story of the building retains good historic physical integrity although the opening where there are paired windows originally housed another sash and transom window.

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 in 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

47. Photographic Reference(s): 18: 35; 21: 13.

Negatives Filed At: City of Salida

Photographer: Roger Whitacre

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.

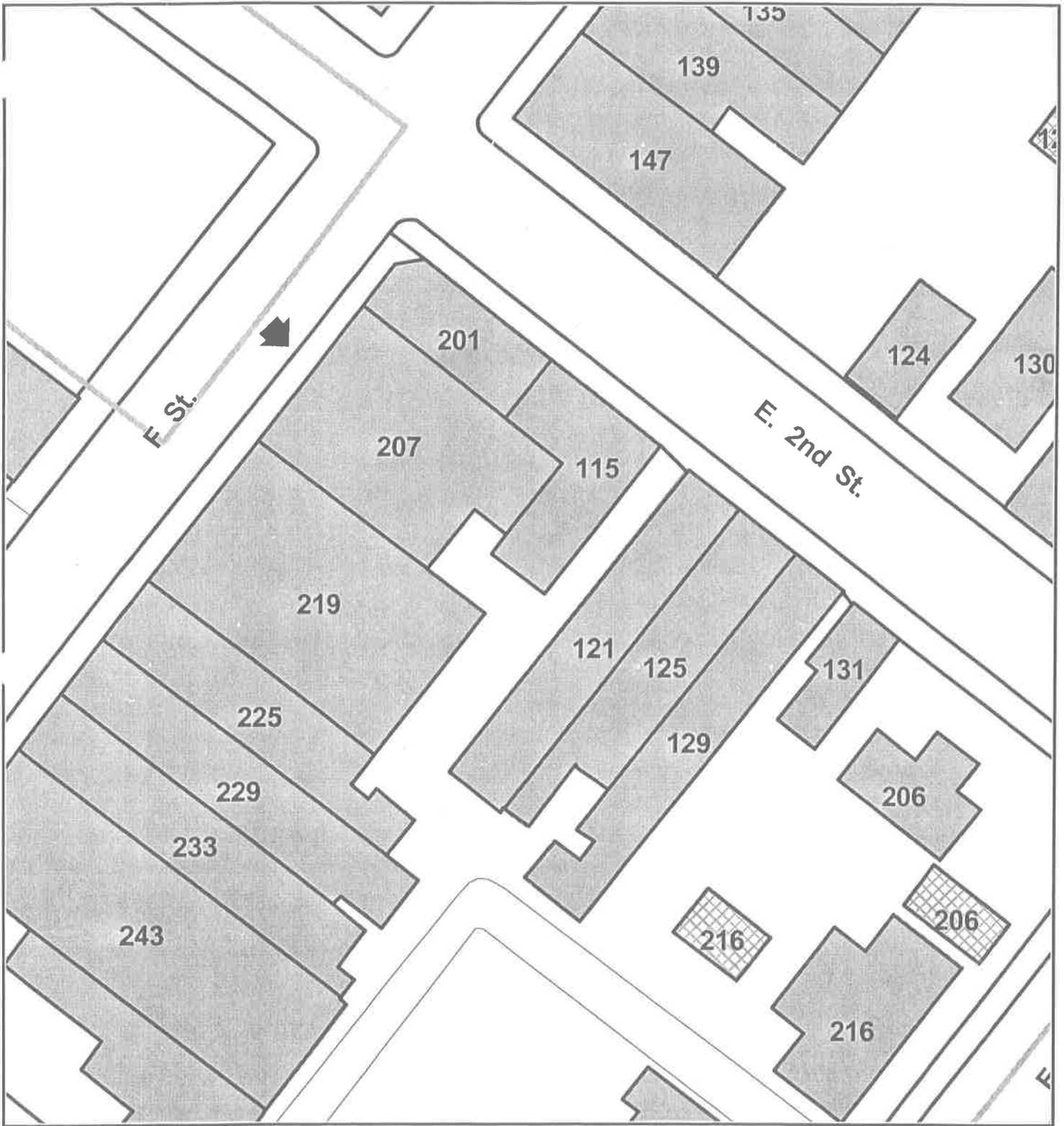
52. Address: 3635 W. 46th Ave.

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

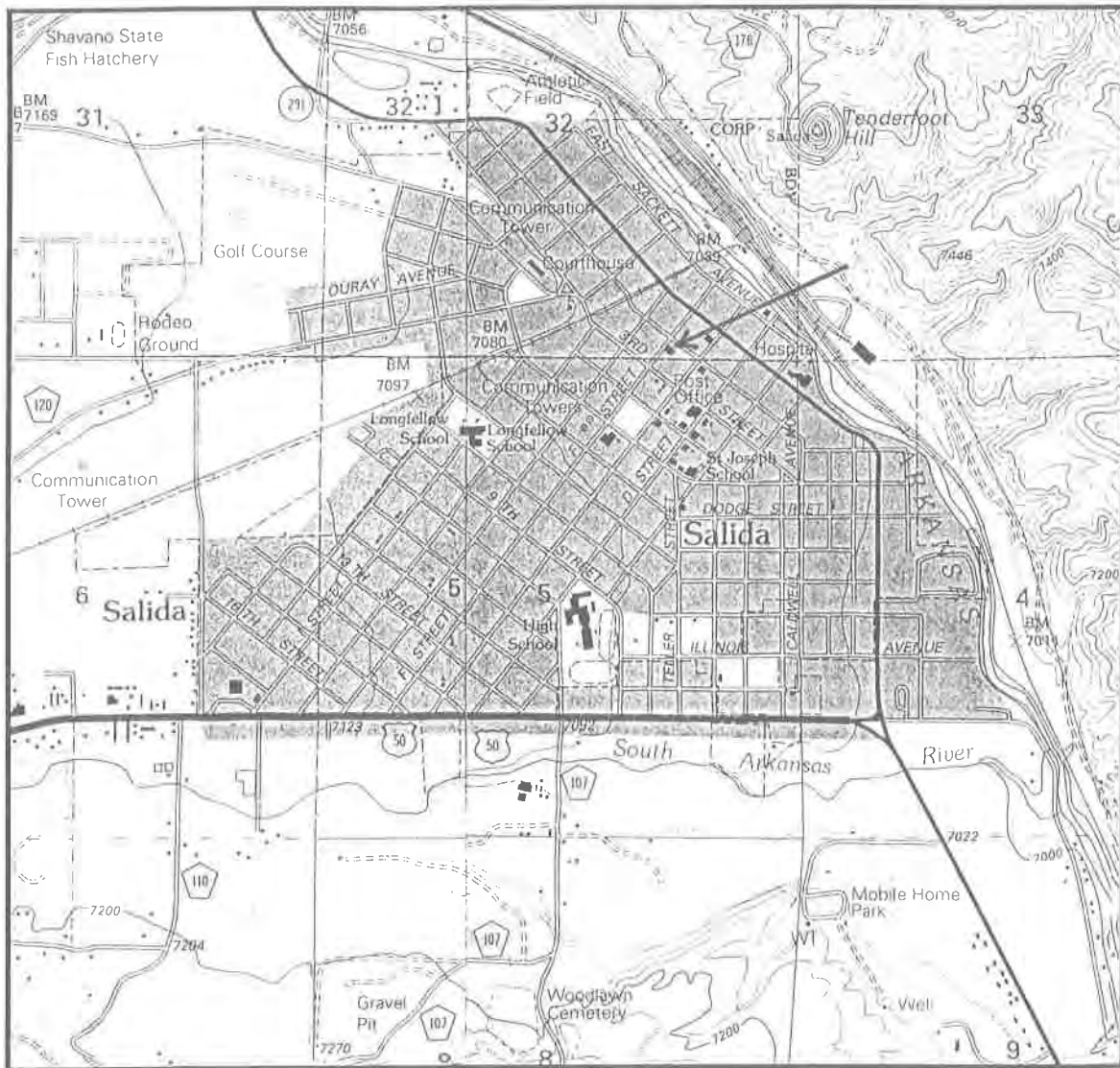


207 F Street, 5CF406.35



**Downtown Salida Historic Buildings Survey
USGS Location Map**

207-11 F St. 5CF406.35



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

