

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: 5CF406.75
2. Temporary Resource Number: 52
3. County: Chaffee
4. City: Salida
5. Historic Building Name: F St. Bridge
6. Current Building Name: F St. Bridge
7. Building Address: N. F St.
8. Owner Name and Address: City of Salida, 124 E St., Salida, CO, 81201

Parcel Number: N/A  
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 413731 Northing 4265734

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

12. Lot (s): N/A Block(s): N/A  
Addition: Salida Original Townsite Year of Addition: 1880

13. Boundary Description and Justification:  
Boundary includes only the footprint of the bridge.

## III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

14. Building Plan (footprint, shape): N/A
15. Dimensions in Feet: Length 128 X Width 50
16. Stories: N/A
17. Primary External Wall Material(s) (enter no more than two):  
N/A
18. Roof Configuration (enter no more than one):  
N/A
19. Primary External Roof Material (enter no more than one): N/A
20. Special Features (enter all that apply):  
N/A
21. General Architectural Description:

Segmental, reinforced concrete Luten arch bridge with two sixty-foot spans forming an overall length of 128'. Center, buttressed, concrete pier supports the bridge over the river; concrete retaining abutments. Paneled concrete balustrade and sidewalk on each side of the asphalt-covered roadway. Three lampposts on each side of bridge. Plaque at southeast corner of bridge reads, "Erected AD 1906," and includes names of Louis Wenz, mayor, and names of board of aldermen.

**22. Architectural Style/Building Type:** Other Style**Landscaping or Special Setting Features:**

Built across the Arkansas River, with a park at the southeast end and a traffic turn-around on the north end.

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

None

**IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY****25. Date of Construction: Estimate** **Actual** 1906-07

**Source of Information:** Plaque on Bridge and Historic Bridges of Colo., 55

**26. Architect:** Pueblo Bridge Co.

**Source of Information:** Historic Bridges of Colorado, 55

**27. Builder/Contractor:** Pueblo Bridge Co.

**Source of Information:** Historic Bridges of Colorado, 55

**28. Original Owner:** City of Salida

**Source of Information:** Historic Bridges of Colorado, 55.

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

A wood bridge was previously at this site and shown on the 1904 Sanborn map. This bridge was erected in 1906-07 and completed in April 1907. The original mid-span lampposts were removed and the current lampposts were added after 1985.

**30. Original Location:** Yes **Date of Moves****V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS**

**Original Use(s):** Transportation/Road-Related (Vehicular)/Vehicular Bridge

**32. Intermediate Use(s)** Transportation/Road-Related (Vehicular)/Vehicular Bridge**33. Current Use(s):** Transportation/Road-Related (Vehicular)/Vehicular Bridge**34. Site Type(s):** Bridge**35. Historical Background:**

A wood bridge previously spanned the Arkansas River leading from the D&RG railroad yards into Lower F Street. In 1884, the Rocky Mountain News reported, "The new bridge at Salida is nearly completed. It is a first-class structure and will stand all storms." The bridge became outdated by the turn of the century. Clayton Fraser's "Historic Bridges of Colorado" outlines the history of the present bridge. The Salida City Council and the Denver & Rio Grande began planning for the construction of a new bridge at this site about 1904. In that year, the city was stunned by tragedy when a footbridge gave way, causing twelve women and children to fall into the river. The city wanted to insure that the new F Street Bridge would hold hundreds of people. The city advertised for bids for the construction of a new bridge using plans and specifications provided by the railroad in March 1906. Eight bridge contractors responded with proposals. The Pueblo Bridge Company, although not the lowest bidder, was awarded the \$18,500 contract. Although the railroad protested, the Pueblo Bridge Co. shortened and narrowed the structure's design as requested by the city (which lowered the price by \$2080). The old structure was sold for \$50 and the new bridge was erected in 1906 and early 1907. The bridge was completed in April 1907.

Fraser states, "After the turn of the century, the preferred alternative to the steel truss for short-span vehicular bridges was generally considered to be the concrete arch. More solid under traffic and better resistant to flooding, it was also valued as more aesthetically refined than the starkly functional steel truss. By far the most prolific concrete bridge builder in Colorado was the Pueblo Bridge Company, and the most common type of concrete bridge was the filled spandrel arch patented by Daniel Luten around 1904. Spanning the Arkansas River in a park setting, the F Street Bridge is a well-preserved early Luten arch, the oldest left in the state built by Pueblo Bridge."

In his "Highway Bridges of Colorado Multiple Property Submission," Fraser reports that the Pueblo Bridge Co., headed by Frederick H. Bullen, popularized the use of Luten arches around the state: "The Bullens' hold on bridge building in Colorado was so absolute that in some regions of the state--primarily in the south and the Arkansas River

Valley--they were virtually the only contractors to put up major spans from 1890 through the 1910s." Over two-dozen of the company's bridges are still standing in Colorado.

#### Sources of Information:

Chaffee County Assessor records; Salida City Directories; Sanborn Insurance Maps; Clayton Fraser, Highway Bridges of Colorado Multiple Property Submission, 2000, 21; Clayton Fraser, Historic Bridges of Colorado (Denver: Colorado Department of Highways, 1986), 55; Rocky Mountain News, 22 March 1884; HABS/HAER Inventory Form, F Street Bridge, 10 October 1983.

## 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;
  - 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: Engineering

40. Period of Significance: 1907-1953

41. Level of Significance: State

42. Statement of Significance:

The F Street Bridge is a well preserved example of the work of the Pueblo Bridge Company and is representative of the Luten arch concrete bridges popular during the early twentieth century. The bridge is reportedly the oldest of this type of bridge built by the Pueblo Bridge Company still standing in the state. Colorado bridge authority Clayton Fraser has called the bridge "one of the most significant of Colorado's concrete roadway spans." The bridge is listed in the National Register.

43. Assessment of Historic Physical Integrity Related to Significance:

The bridge maintains excellent historic physical integrity. The lampposts along the bridge are replacements.

## VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register Field Eligibility Assessment: Listed

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

This structure is listed in the National Register and 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

47. Photographic Reference(s): 1: 28, 30, 32, 24.

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.

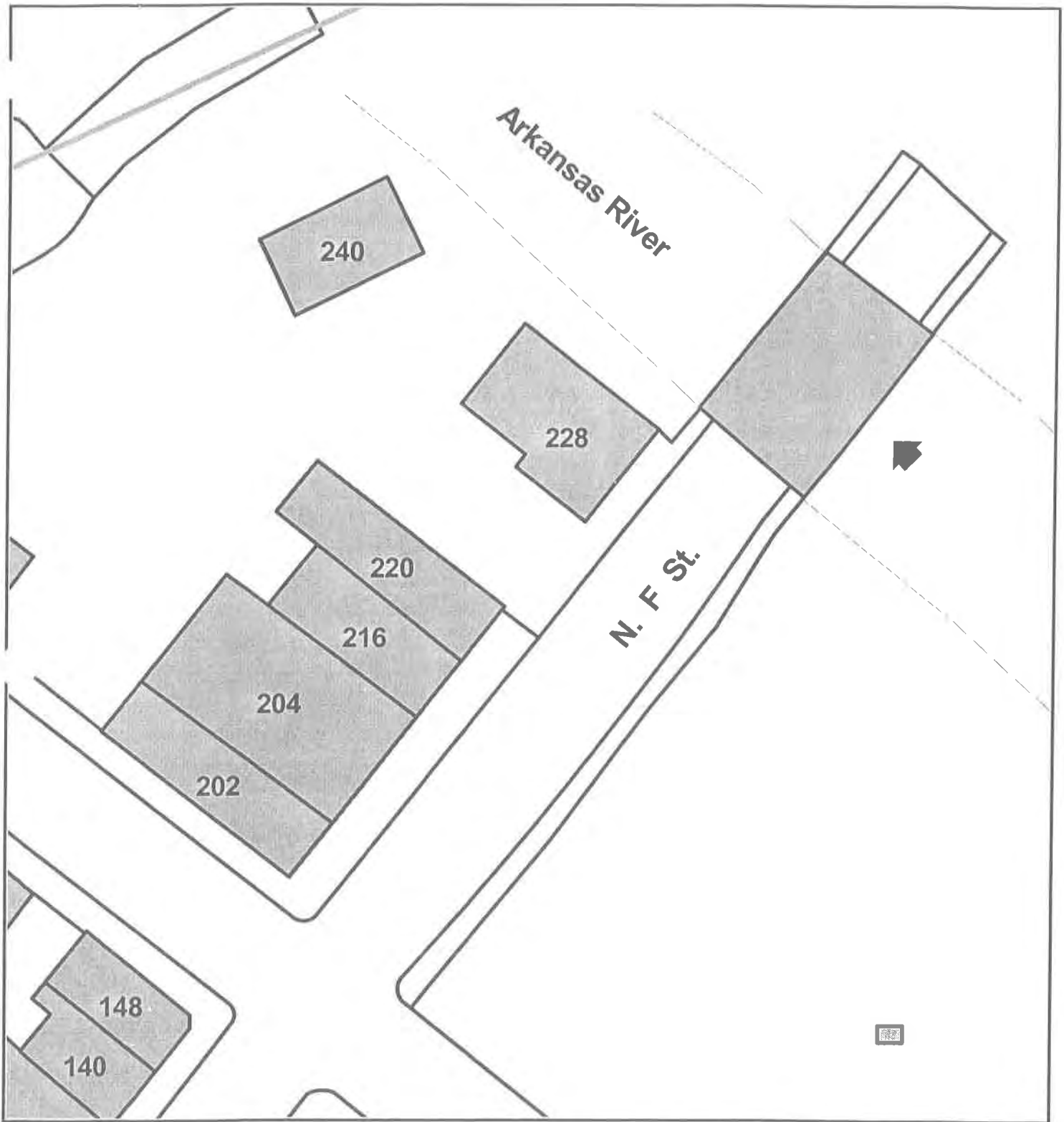
52. Address: 3635 W. 46th Ave.

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

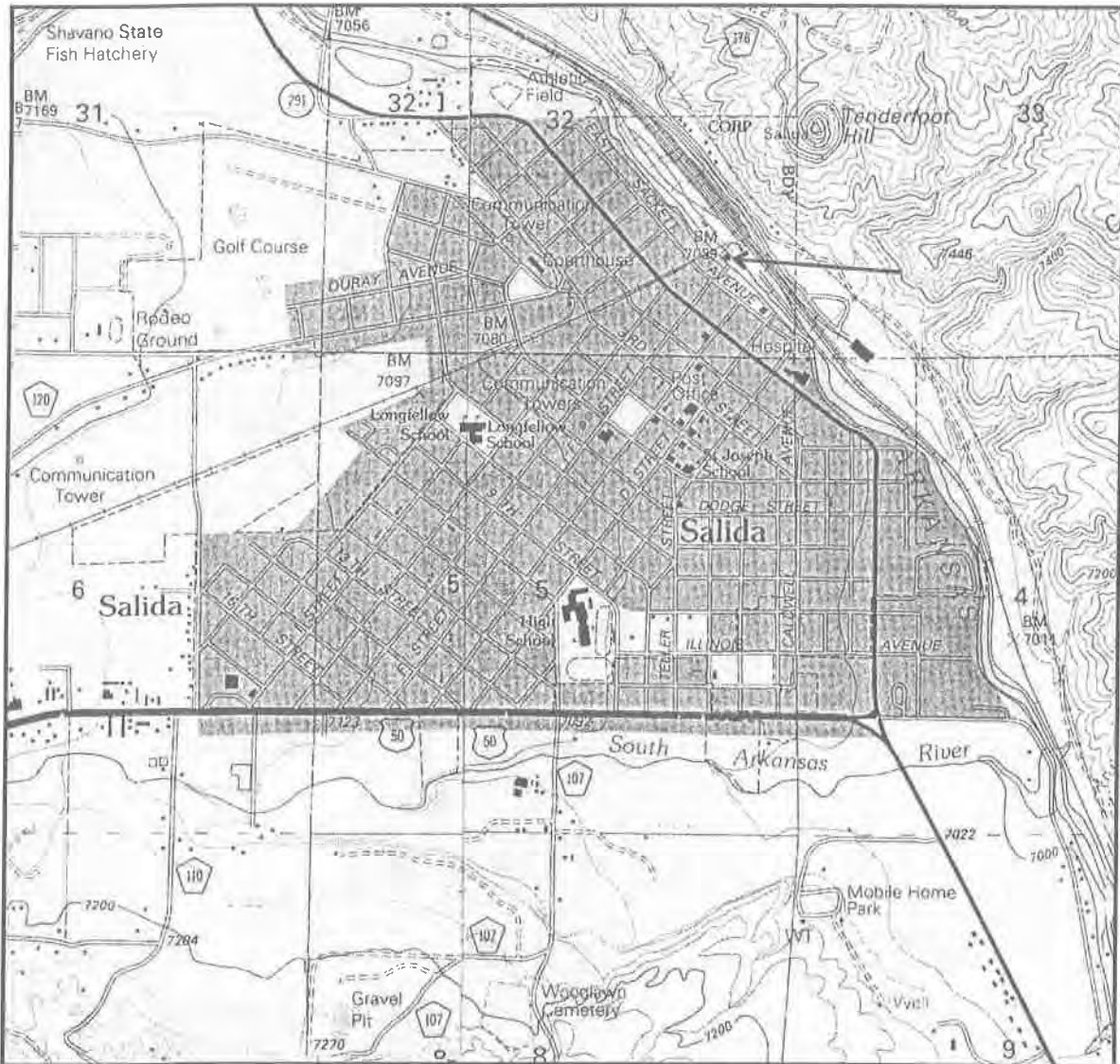


N. F Street (F street Birdge), 5CF406.75



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

N F St, 5CF406.75



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

