

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 19 1985  
date entered MAY 16

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Chaffee County Poor Farm

and/or common Poor Farm Country Inn

2. Location

street & number 8495 County Road 160 n/a not for publication

city, town n/a XX vicinity of Salida

state Colorado code 08 county Chaffee code 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Herbert and Dottie Hostetler

street & number 8495 County Road 160

city, town Salida n/a vicinity of state Colorado

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chaffee Title Abstract; Chaffee County Court House

street & number

city, town Salida state Colorado

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date April 2, 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Colorado Preservation Office, 1300 Broadway

city, town Denver state Colorado 80203



## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Chaffee County Poor Farm, located three miles northwest of Salida on County Road 160, has a rural setting on the flat, broad valley on the west banks of the Arkansas River. The towering Sawatch mountain range to the west forms a magnificent backdrop to the relatively treeless site. Located there in 1892 on 120 acres, the Poor Farm today consists of three original buildings on eleven acres. The largest building, a large, two-story masonry house in a modified T plan, dominates the site. Its exterior design is a vernacular adaptation of the Colonial Revival style as seen in its boxy massing, symmetry of openings and plan and the low hipped roofs. The building does not have a front porch and is lacking in the usual ornamentation such as dentils, brackets, and columns.

The sheer bulk of the house is not apparent from the 36 foot wide south facade which forms the top of the T. From the side elevations, however the 84 foot length is seen with a two-story section forming the stem of the T by means of a set-back from the side walls of the front section and ending at the bottom of the T in a one-story hipped roof section which has a 1945 shed roof, frame addition with a porch.

The exterior walls are faced with brick and rise 26 feet above a foundation of local rock faced stone. The roofs of the three sections are hipped with a plain boxed cornice and unornamented frieze and architrave. The windows are two-over-two wood sash set beneath segmental arches outlined by a double row of headers laid flush with the walls. The projecting rock faced sandstone sills are also of local stone.

The front entrance on the south is centrally located and is flanked by one window on either side. The three second floor windows are placed directly above the first floor openings. The paneled double entry doors have two narrow vertical lights in the upper portions and are set beneath a transom within a segmental arch with a triple row of headers. The front porch consists of an unroofed concrete platform without a railing. On the east side there are two doors at the second story level within the set-back which give access to a metal chute or slide used as a fire escape.

Originally the interior contained 13 rooms including a kitchen, a dining room and sleeping rooms. When the city of Salida bought the Poor Farm in 1945, the main house was renovated for use as a Grange Hall and other community activities. The interior partitions of the second floor and stairway were removed and the stair landing window on the west side was bricked in. A new covered exterior stairway of wood was constructed on the west for access to the second floor. Since that time the building has been renovated for a bed and breakfast inn and the second floor partitions have been replaced as closely as possible to their original locations and three new bathrooms have been added. Much of the interior trim of locally milled pine has been retained.

Approximately 100 feet northwest of the rear of the main house is a frame barn with vertical board siding and a brick foundation.<sup>1</sup> There is a frame shed attached to the south wall of the barn which forms an L. The original ice house is located about 50 feet east of the main house. Its frame exterior is now faced with contemporary siding added in the 1960s when the building was remodeled into a three room cottage.

<sup>1</sup>The barn dates to the period of construction of the poor house.



# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1891-1935 Builder/Architect Contractors: Lawrence Brothers

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Chaffee County Poor Farm is significant in the cultural and social history of the state as one of the representative facilities established by Colorado counties in the 19th century to care for the indigent. The building and its rural setting retain much of their original integrity.

Prior to 1865, the needs of the poor in Colorado were addressed by private charitable agencies and institutions. In 1865, a law was enacted placing the responsibility with the counties for the maintenance of those dependents who were their residents. For the following years prior to the passage of legislation in the 1930s establishing the Division of Public Welfare within state government, "almshouse or poor farm care was the prevalent form of aid given to those in need."<sup>1</sup>

The first Chaffee County poor farm was located near the town of Salida, the county seat. Founded in 1880, Salida was an important railroad junction for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad line. Construction of the line continued north to reach the well-known mining town of Leadville two months later and to the west to reach Gunnison in August 1881.<sup>2</sup>

During the 1880s, the needs of the destitute for this rapidly growing community were met largely by the county hospital. However in 1890, the Chaffee County Commissioners made known their concern about the large expense in sustaining its paupers--an amount ranging between \$790 to \$800 a month, a considerable sum for the day. Thereupon, the decision was made to establish a poor farm, a facility which offered an attractive alternative in that the poor could, in some measure, sustain themselves by the planting and harvesting of crops.<sup>3</sup>

On January 23, 1891, the county purchased a 120-acre parcel two miles northwest of Salida from O.E. Harrington. A temporary structure was erected in the spring and, the following year, the buildings seen there today were constructed by the Lawrence Brothers, contractors from the nearby town of Buena Vista, at a cost of \$6,371.95. Once the complex was completed, those who sought aid from the county were required to go to the poor farm.<sup>4</sup>

In February 1944, due to the high cost of maintenance and a decrease in resident numbers from a high of thirty to a low of three or four, the city of Salida purchased the property. The main house was altered for use as a Grange Hall. County fairs and 4H activities were also held on the grounds.<sup>5</sup> The building, along with eleven acres, is now operated as a bed and breakfast by the current owners.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet, #8, page 2)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4 acres

Quadrangle name Salida West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	3	4	1	0	1	0	0	4	2	6	7	4	5	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing								

B 

1	3	4	1	0	1	0	0	4	2	6	7	2	9	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing								

C 

1	3	4	0	9	9	8	0	4	2	6	7	2	9	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing								

D 

1	3	4	0	9	9	8	0	4	2	6	7	4	5	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Included within the nominated area was the poor house and open fields immediately surrounding to reflect the rural "farm" nature of the resource. Part of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  and part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 25, T50N, R8E, N.M.P.M. as described at entry No. 10 herein. (See Map 2 for precise boundaries)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Herbert & Dottie Hostetler/Coler Hissem Edited: Gloria Mills  
Barbara Norgren  
organization Owners/Architect  
Preservation Consultant date January, 1985  
street & number 8495 County Road 160 (303) 539-3818  
7453 E. Jefferson Drive telephone (303) 740-7860  
city or town Salida Colorado 81201  
Denver state Colorado 80237

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Barbara Sudler*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-15-85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*for Nelson Byrum*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5-16-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

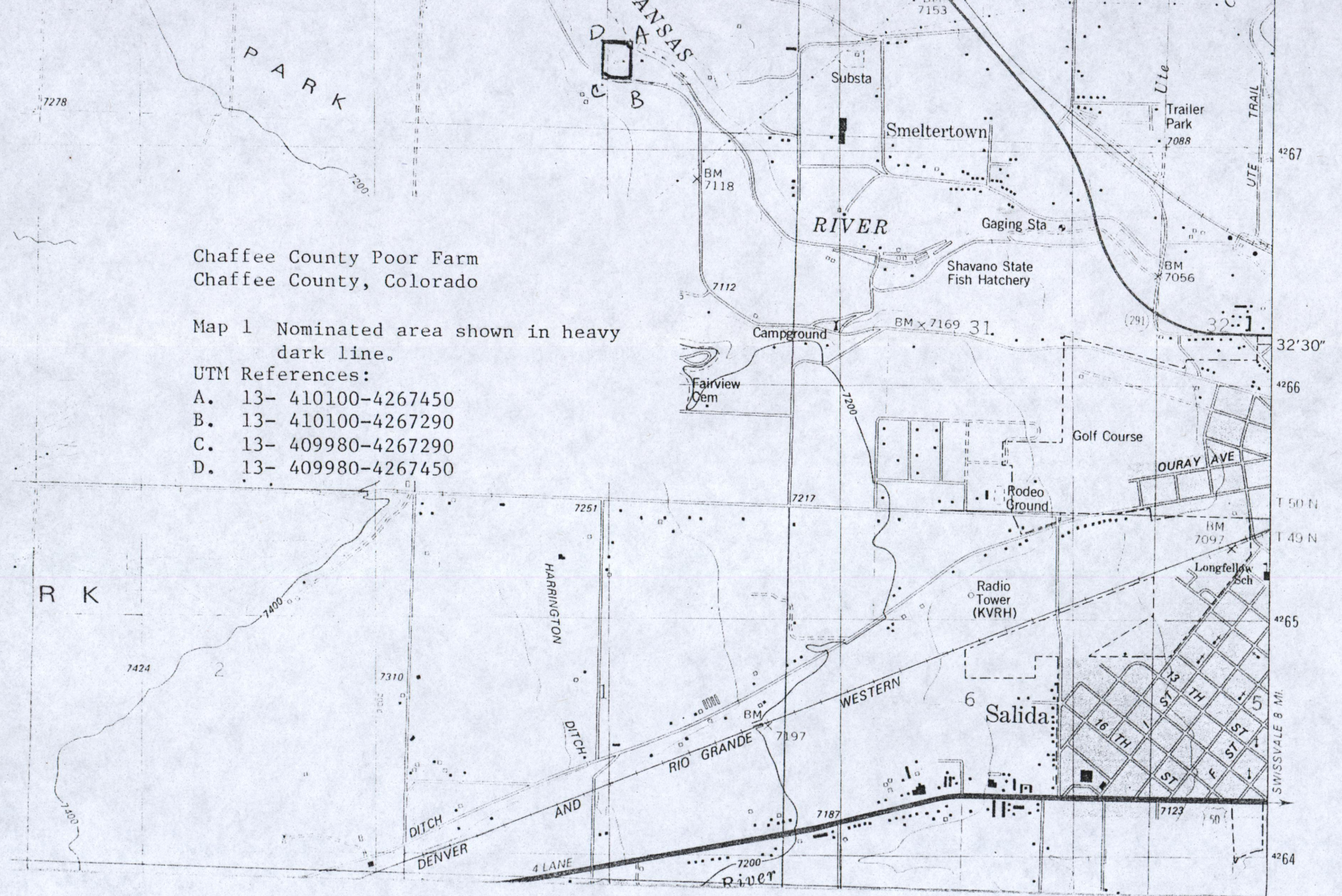


Chaffee County Poor Farm  
Chaffee County, Colorado

Map 1 Nominated area shown in heavy  
dark line.

UTM References:

- A. 13- 410100-4267450
- B. 13- 410100-4267290
- C. 13- 409980-4267290
- D. 13- 409980-4267450









Property Name: The Chaffee County Poor Farm

Location: Vicinity Salida, Colorado  
(Chaffee County)

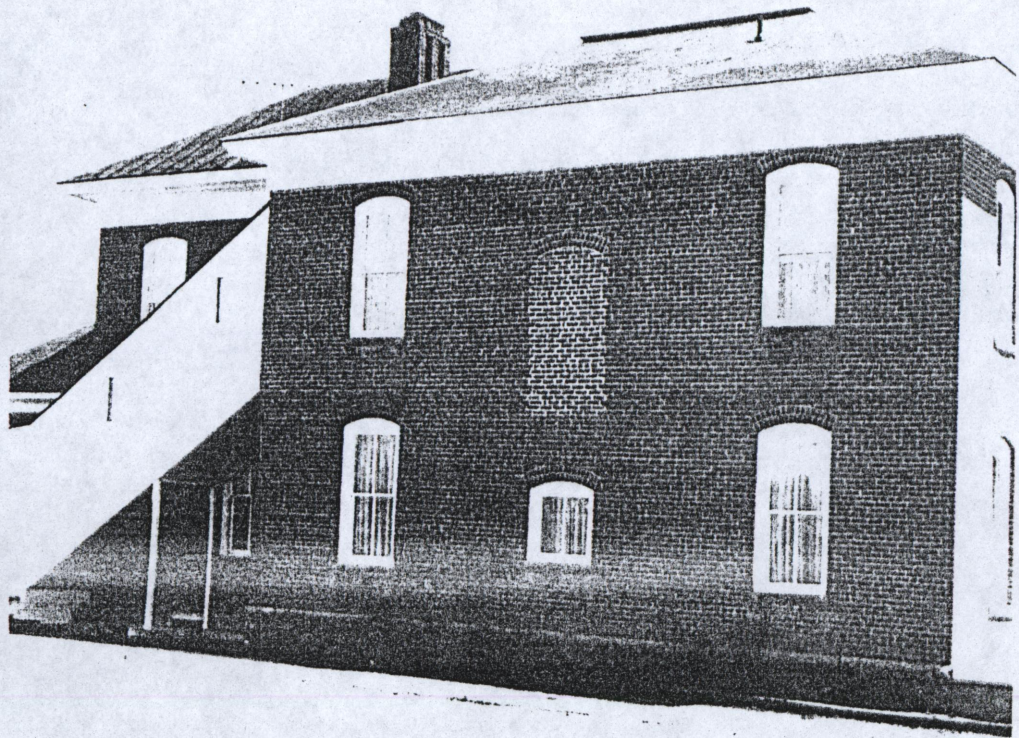
Photographer/Date: Ray James/April, 1984

Negative: 8495 County Road 160, Salida, Colo

Camera Direction: north (rear) elevation  
(1945 addition shown)

Photo 6







Property Name: The Chaffee County Poor F  
Location: Vicinity Salida, Colorado  
(Chaffee County)  
Photographer/Date: Ray James/April, 1984  
Negative: 8495 County Road 160, Salida, Co.  
Camera Direction: view looking northeast  
Photo No.: 5







Property Name: The Chaffee County Poor Farm

Location: Vicinity Salida, Colorado  
(Chaffee County)

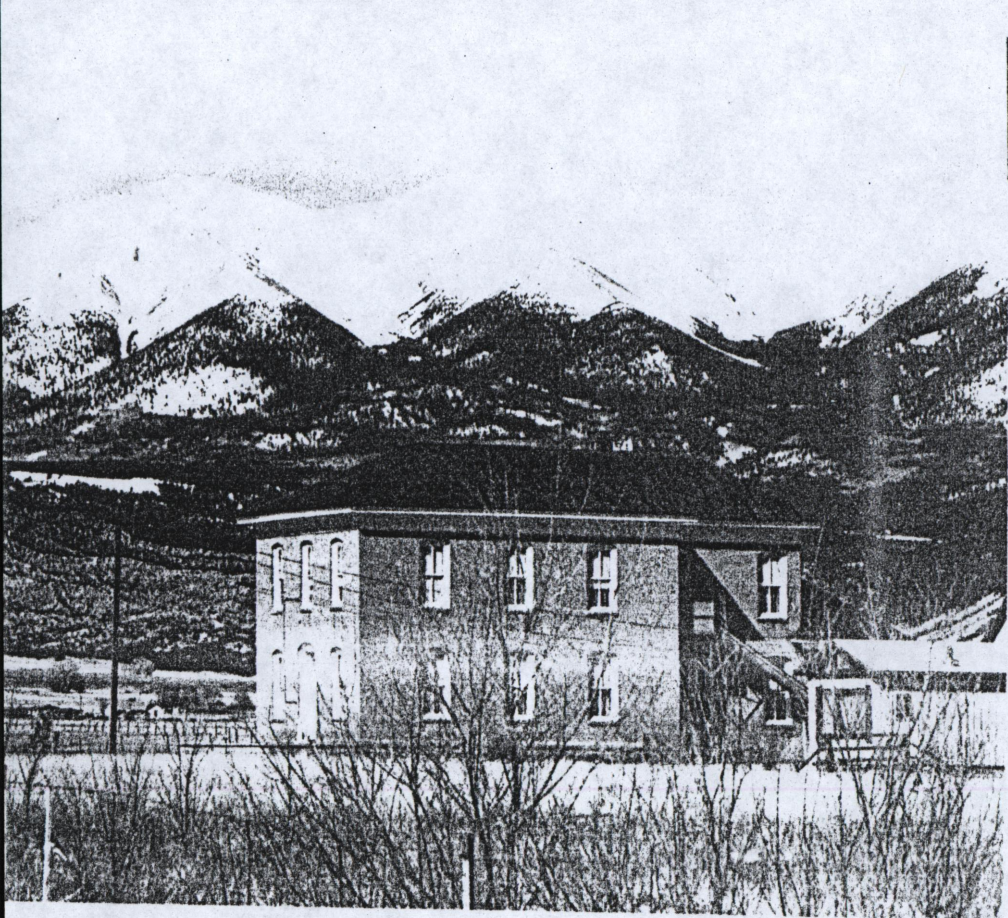
Photographer/Date: Ray James/April, 1984

Negative: 8495 County Road 160, Salida, Colorado

Camera Direction: (front) south elevation look-  
ing north

Photo No.: 2







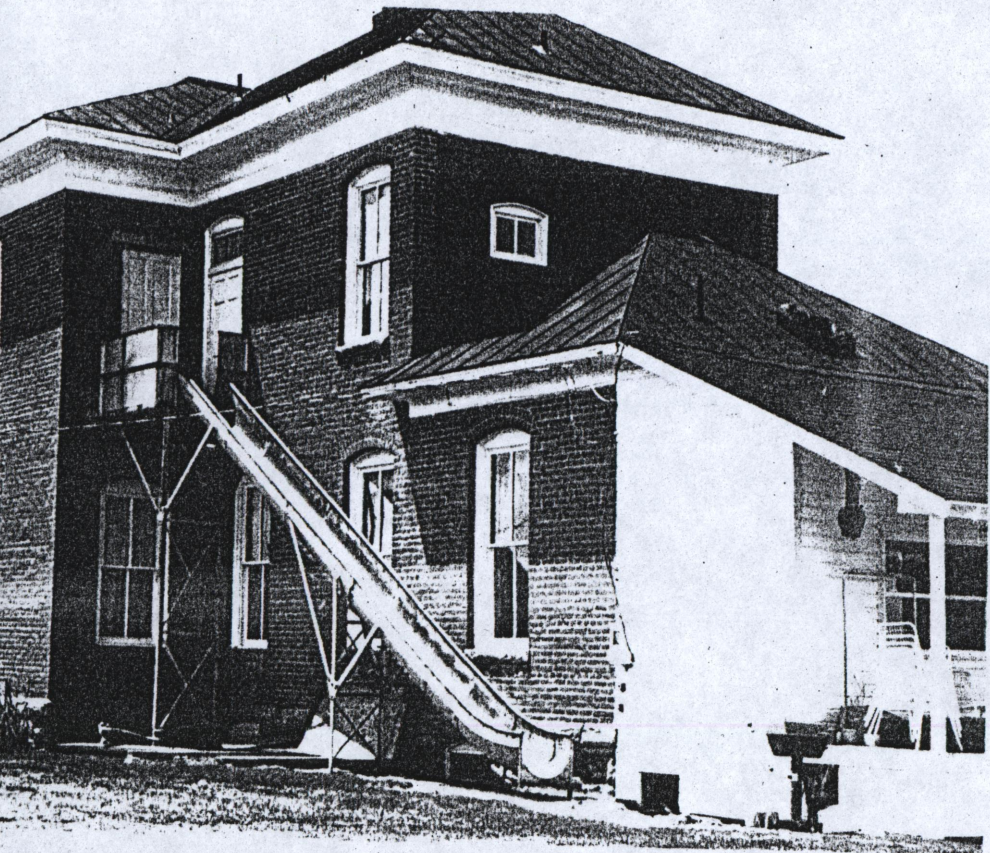
Property Name: The Chaffee County Poor Farm  
Location: Vicinity Salida, Colorado  
(Chaffee County)  
Photographer/Date: Ray James/April, 1984  
Negative: 8495 County Road 160, Salida, Colorado  
Camera Direction: view looking west  
Photo No.: 1





Property Name: The Chaffee County Poor Farm  
Location: Vicinity Salida, Colorado  
(Chaffee County)  
Photographer/Date: Ray James/April, 1984  
Negative: 8495 County Road 160, Salida, Colorado  
Camera Direction: view looking northwest  
Photo No.: 3





Property Name: The Chaffee County Poor Farm  
Location: Vicinity Salida, Colorado  
(Chaffee County)  
Photographer/Date: Ray James/April, 1984  
Negative: 8495 County Road 160, Salida, Colo  
Camera Direction: view looking southwest  
Photo No.: 4



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date entered

Continuation sheet The Chaffee County  
Poor Farm Item number 8 Page 2

<sup>1</sup>LeRoy R. Hafen, ed., Colorado And Its People, Vol. II (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1948) p. 333.

<sup>2</sup>Jerome C. Smiley, History of Denver (Denver: The Times-Sun Publishing Co., 1901), p. 605.

<sup>3</sup>Arlene Shovald, "Care For Poor Changed". Directions '85, Mountain Mail Special Edition, pp. 19-20.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., pp. 19-20.

<sup>5</sup>Registration of Poor Farm residents, Chaffee County Courthouse; Property abstract, May 1945.