

Colorado Historical Society - Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Compass: Colorado's On-line Cultural Resource Database

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Architectural Site Detail

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Site ID: 5CF.291

Name: SALIDA ELECTRIC LIGHT STATION~EDISON ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT~SALIDA STEAM PLANT

*** Street Address(s) ***

Number: 220

Street: SACKETT AVE.

City: SALIDA

County: Chaffee

Resource Type: Historic

Assessment		Recorder	
Date	Description	Date	Description
03/10/1993	Listed - State Register	9/2002	Front Range Research Associates
10/21/1994	Eligible - Officially	11/17/1992	
06/01/1981	Not Eligible - Field		

Condition		Images	
Date	Description	Notice of Additional Information	
11/17/1992	Good/Light Disturbance	<input type="button" value="View"/> 001 Notice	
		Site Info/Nomination/Images	
		<input type="button" value="View"/> 001 Photograph	
		<input type="button" value="View"/> 002 Photograph	
		<input type="button" value="View More Images..."/>	

Absolute Date		Related Sites	
Method	Comments	No Related Sites	

*** Document(s) ***

on file at Colorado Historical Society

ID: CF.SHF.R7

Title: DOWNTOWN SALIDA, COLORADO, HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY, 2001-02 (01-02-004)

Author: FRONT RANGE RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC.

Date: 01/01/2003

Contractor: CITY OF SALIDA

ID: CF.SHF.R2

Title: PIGEON ROOM RENOVATION, SALIDA STEAM PLANT, SALIDA, COLORADO (SHF 97-M1-040)

Author: WHITE, EDWARD D. JR.

Date: 11/02/1998
Contractor: EDWARD D. WHITE JR. FOR THE CITY OF SALIDA

ID: CF.SHF.R10
Title: SALIDA STEAM PLANT CONFERENCE CENTER 2003 IMPROVEMENT PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (SHF 03-01-070)
Author: NOT SPECIFIED
Date: 04/01/2003
Contractor: SALIDA STEAM PLANT

*** ARCHITECTURE ***

Original Use: ENERGY FACILITY
Present Use: RECREATION AND CULTURE
Early Date: 1887
Late Date: 1887
Architect: UNKNOWN ARCHITECT
Feature: RECTANGULAR PLAN, CROSS GABLED ROOF, 1 STORY, BRICK, METAL ROOF, SEGMENTAL ARCH WINDOWS, GLASS BLOCK
Style: NO STYLE

*** ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA ***

Site Type		Culture	
Feature(s)		Artifact(s)	
Cnt	Description	Cnt	Description

*** LOCATION INFORMATION ***

Map	Principal Meridian	Township	Range	Section	Quarters	UTM	
						Zone: Easting	Northing
SALIDA EAST	NM	50N	9E	32	NW NW SE SE	13:4 13 610mE	42 65 774mN

Colorado Historical Society - Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Compass: Colorado's On-line Cultural Resource Database - Complete Image List

CF.291 - SALIDA ELECTRIC LIGHT STATION~EDISON ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT~SALIDA STEAM PLANT

Notice of Additional Information

[View](#) 001 Notice

Site Information

[View](#) 001 Photograph

[View](#) 002 Photograph

[View](#) 003 Photograph

[View](#) 004 Map

[View](#) 005 Photograph

[View](#) 006 Photograph

[View](#) 007 Photograph

[View](#) 008 Site Form

[View](#) 009 Site Form

[View](#) 010 Site Form

[View](#) 011 Site Form

[View](#) 012 Photograph

[View](#) 013 Photograph

Nomination

[View](#) 001 Registration Form

[View](#) 002 Description

[View](#) 003 Significance

[View](#) 004 Registration Form

[View](#) 005 Description

[View](#) 006 Description

[View](#) 007 Description

[View](#) 008 Significance

[View](#) 009 Significance

[View](#) 010 Significance

[View](#) 011 Significance

[View](#) 012 Significance

[View](#) 013 Map

[View](#) 014 Description

[View](#) 015 Map

[View](#) 016 Photograph

[View](#) 017 Photograph

[View](#) 018 Photograph

[View](#) 019 Photograph

[View](#) 020 Photograph

[View](#) 021 Photograph

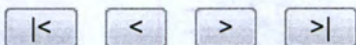
Site Number SCF 291

Please Note

Some of the items previously filed with this cultural resource record were not scanned. These items may include:

- Published materials - including newspaper and magazine clippings
- Bound material - including brochures and pamphlets
- Microfiche
- Negatives (photocopy any contact sheets and clip to negatives)
- Computer disks or CDs
- Documents
- Items over 17 x 11

These items are now stored in the Supplementary Files at the OAHP office.



North side



East side

Photos by
Terry Barket
8/92

5CF.291-N-001
photos, 001



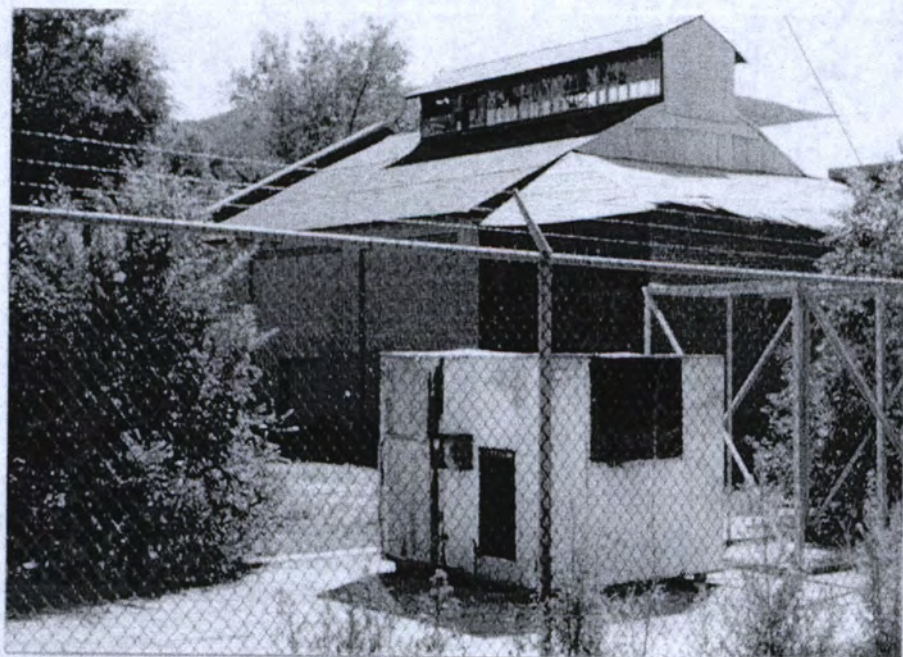
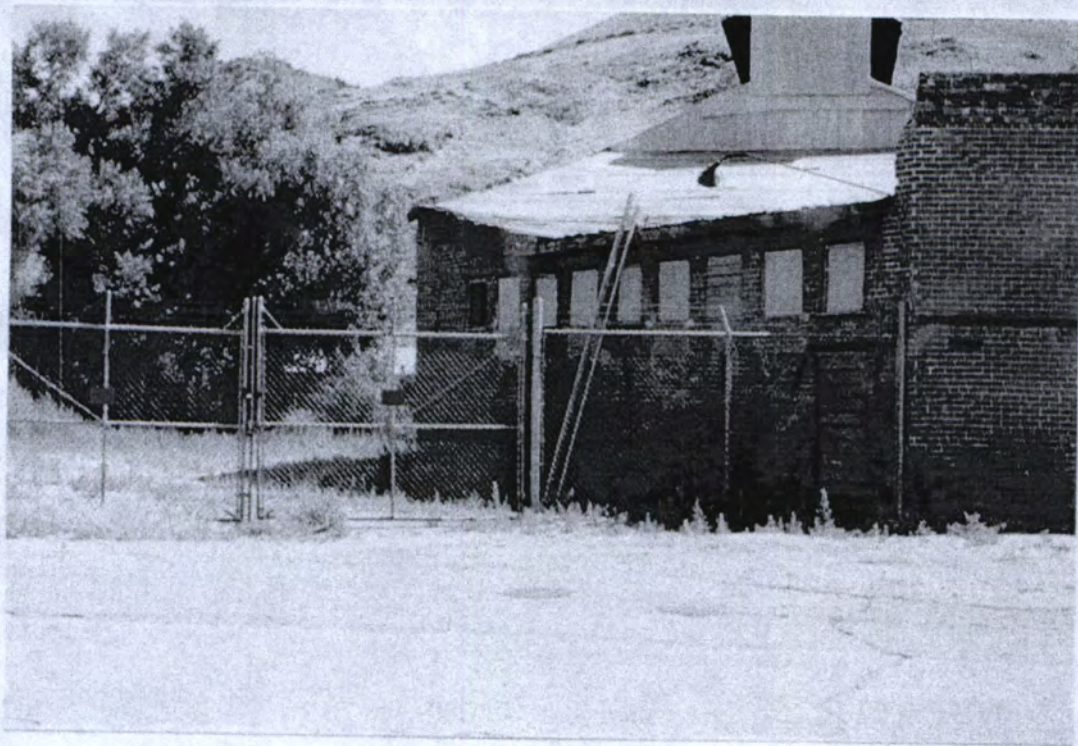
South side



Theater Room East side

Photos by
Terry Barke H

8/92
SCF.291-b-002-Photograph



West side Pigeon Room

Photos by
Terry Barkett
5CF, 291-N-003-Photograph 8/92

Coors Boat Ramp

ARKANSAS RIVER

OUTDOOR DISPLAY
Sculpture
Garden

Steam Plant
COMMUNITY CENTER

RIVER PATIO

RIVER ACCESS

FIBARK
BUILDING

[To be developed]

OUTDOOR
EATING

Sackett (Front) Street

Arkansas River
State Park
Headquarters
Constructed 1991

PARKING

R.V. PARKING

SCALE:

0 5 20' 40'

Boundary - Special Improvement District

Circa 1992

5CF,291-A-004-map

5CF,291-A-004-map

71

Photos Taken
by
Pat Brooks
2-22-89



1989

5CF. 291-K-005-Photo



Theater Room Before renovation 1989



Pigeon Room 1989 and 1992

Photos by
Pat Brooks

50F.291-6-000-PHOTO 2-22-89



1989 -- Before Renovation

Photos Taken by:
Pat Brooks
2-22-89

5CF291-b-007-Photo



INVENTORY RECORD

IMPORTANT: COMPLETE THIS SHEET FOR EACH RESOURCE PLUS EITHER AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR HISTORICAL/ARCHITECTURAL COMPONENT FORM.

NOT FOR FIELD USE
DET. ELIG.
DET. NOT ELIG.
NOMINATED
LISTED, DATE _____

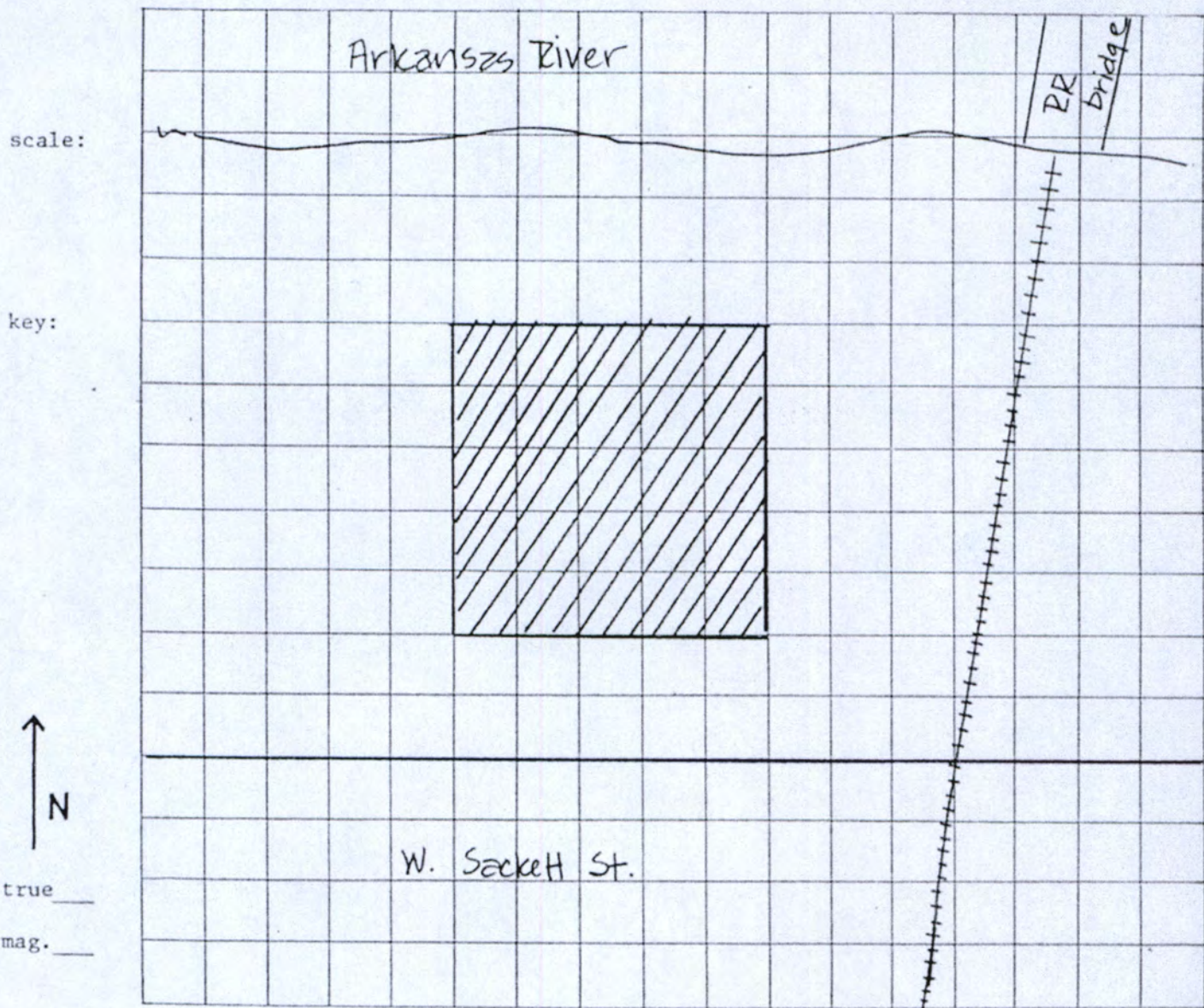
I. IDENTIFICATION: 1) Resource No. 5CF291 2) Temp. No. 80
 3) Resource Name Power Plant 4) Project Name FCRC Survey
 5) Category: Arch. Site , Hist./Archit. Structure x, Hist./Archit. District .
 6) (For Arch. site) In a District: yes no ; Name

II. LOCATION: 7) Township 50N; Range 9E; NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32; P.M. New Mexico. 8) County Chaffee
 9) USGS QUAD Salida East ~~Cameron Mountain~~; 7.5 15 X; Date 1956 Attach photocopy portion of Quad. Clearly show site. 10) Other maps 1929 Sanborn; Perris maps unavailable
 11) Dimensions mX m 12) Area sq.m(+4047=) acres
 13) UTM Reference: (One UTM centered on resource may be given for resource under 10 acres.)
 A. | 1,3 |; | 4,1,3 | 5,5,0 | mE; | 4,2 | 6,5 | 7,7,0 | mN. B. | | |; | | | | | mE; | | | | | mN.
 C. | | |; | | | | | mE; | | | | | mN. D. | | |; | | | | | mE; | | | | | mN.
 14) Address 300 blk. W. Sackett Ave. Lot Block Addition unavailable

III. MANAGEMENT DATA: 15) Field Assessment: Eligible Not Eligible x Need Data
 16) Owner/Address Public Service Company
 17) Gov't Involvement: County State Federal Private ; Agency n/a
 18) Disturbance: none light moderate x heavy total ; Explain a number of brick additions on south side of structure
 19) Threats to Resource: Water Erosion Wind Erosion Animal Activity Neglect Vandalism Recreation Construction ; Comments n/a
 20) Management Recommendations continued maintenance of the building

V. REFERENCE: 21) State/Fed. Permit Nos. n/a
 22) Photo Nos. CP5/11,12, on file at CPO
 23) Report Title Historical Surveys of Colorado Communities: Upper Arkansas Val
 24) Recorder Salida M. Taylor 25) Recording Date 6/15/81
 26) Recorder Affiliation CPO/FCRC Survey 27) Phone No. 866-3392

V. SKETCH MAP: Map all features and show the boundaries of the resources. Show all major topographic features, permanent modern features, and vegetation zones as appropriate. Give names of features, streets and addresses if known. Provide scale, key and direction.



28) Location/Access: n/a

29) Boundary Description: n/a

30) Boundary Justification: n/a



ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL COMPONENT FORM

IMPORTANT: USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GREEN INVENTORY RECORD FORM FOR RECORDING HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND DISTRICTS. USE SEPARATELY FOR RECORDING STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

1) Resource No. ²⁹⁹5CF291 2) Temp No. 80 3) Name Power Plant

4) Address 300 Blk. W. Sackett, north side 5) District Name n/a

I. INTEGRITY: 6) Condition: Good Fair Deteriorated

7) Original Use power plant 8) Present Use storage

9) Original Site Moved Date(s) of Move: _____

10) Unaltered Altered Explain: a number of brick additions on south side of building

II. DESCRIPTION: 11) Building Materials brick

12) Construction Date 1892 (Pasquale) 13) Architect/Builder unknown

14) Architectural Style(s) n/a

15) Special Features/Surroundings: The former power plant is located on the south bank of the Arkansas River.

16) Archaeological Potential: Yes No Unknown Explain: _____

III. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: Key the resource type (ie: house, barn, shed, school, church, etc) to the cultural activity theme and sub-theme category associated with it.

17) THEME	Industry		
18) SUB-THEME	Utility		
19) TYPES	former power plant		

(Attach Photographs)

Frame Number 11, 12Roll Number CF 5Facade Orientation N, S

IV. SIGNIFICANCE: Assess whether or not the resource has any historical or architectural merit by checking appropriate categories and justifying below. Include any relevant historical data.

20) Architectural Significance:

- Represents work of a master
 Possesses high artistic values
 Represents a type, period, or method of construction

21) Historical Significance:

- Associated with significant persons
 Associated with significant events or patterns
 Contributes to the significance of an historic district

"Electrical power from a small steam generator was first introduced in Salida in 1887 when the city installed one of the first Edison Electric Light systems, similar to Thomas Edison's Pearl Street Station which provided the first lighting for New York City." (The power plant appears on the 1890 Sanborn map.)

"In 1892 the Salida Light and Power Company built a 1000 kilowatt steam generating plant on Sackett Street. The unit was in service until 1958 and the building is still used as a warehouse. The old generator now stands as a pioneer monument outside the Cherokee Generating Station in Denver."

"In 1916, Salida Light was purchased by the Colorado Power Company and in September 1924 the firm was consolidated with the Public Service Company of Colorado."

Two large brick structures, one of which is distinguished by a monitor roof, originally housed Salida's power plant. Various sized brick additions on the south obscure these two main buildings.

22) List Any Associated Cultural Group: n/aV. REFERENCES:

1. Pasquale, Cynthia. 1980. 100 Years in the Heart of the Rockies.
2. 1890, 1898 Sanborn Perris maps

RECORDER M. TaylorDATE 6-15-81



5CE 291. N. 012. PHOTO

PROPERTY NAME: PSC Power Plant 5CF291
LOCATION: 300 blk W Seckett, north side
BLOCK/LOT: _____
PHOTOGRAPHER/DATE: M. Taylor, 5-30-81
FACADE ORIENTATION: N-S CAMERA DIR. N
FILM ROLL & FRAME: CF 5, 12

PROPERTY NAME: PSC Power Plant 5CF291
LOCATION: 300 blk W. Seckett, north side
BLOCK/LOT: _____
PHOTOGRAPHER/DATE: M Taylor, 5-30-81
FACADE ORIENTATION: N-S CAMERA DIR. W
FILM ROLL & FRAME: CF 5, 11

5CF.291-1-013 Photograph



COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR OFFICE USE

Site # 5CF291
11/18/92 Received
 _____ Det. Eligible
 _____ Det. Not Eligible
2-19-93 Review Board Action
3/10/93 App. _____ Den.
 Listed (CHS Bd Dir)

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

NOMINATION FORM

(Please type to fill in the blanks on the form.)

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME Edison Electric Light Plant

CURRENT NAME Salida Steam Plant

2. ADDRESS OF PROPERTY 312 West Sackett
number street

Salida Chaffee 81201
city county zip

3. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY P.M. 6 T 50 R 9
Tract in the SW 4 SE 4 Section 32

NM PM
T 50 N
R 9 E
Sec 32

4. CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY

building structure Local Landmark
 district object Individual
 site area In District

5. PRESENT OWNER OF PROPERTY

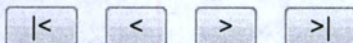
Name City of Salida

Address P.O. Box 417 Phone (719) 539-4555

city Salida State CO Zip 81201

(If property is in multiple ownership, please give the name and address of each owner.)

Continuation Sheet



DESCRIPTION

6. USE OF PROPERTY

Historic Electrical Generating Plant
 Current Cultural Arts Center

CONDITION

 excellent X good fair deteriorated ruins moved X original site7. YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION 1887SOURCE OF INFORMATION Salida Mail, 1887

8. ARCHITECT, BUILDER, ENGINEER, ARTIST, DESIGNER

Hervey & Robinson ContractorsSOURCE OF INFORMATION Salida Mail, October, 1887

9. ARCHITECTURAL STYLE/ENGINEERING TYPE

Industry/Warehouse

10. DESCRIPTION

Original Physical Appearance
 1887

The original plant consisted of a single story frame building twenty-eight feet square and sloped roof, housing one engine and two incandescent dynamos. A boiler room containing one boiler was attached. A short railroad spur came off the narrow-gauge mainline delivering coal to the plant on the west side of the building. Gondola loads of coal had to be hand-shoveled into the coal bin. The plant had a 75 foot smoke stack.

 X Continuation sheet

11. ALTERATIONS

 X Continuation Sheet



HISTORY

12. ORIGINAL OWNER The Edison Electric Light Company of Salida
 SOURCE OF INFORMATION Warranty deed dated 10/15/1887

13. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

Areas of Significance	Applicable Criteria
<u>Commerce</u>	a <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> d <input type="checkbox"/>
_____	b <input type="checkbox"/> e <input type="checkbox"/>
_____	c <input type="checkbox"/>

HISTORY

April 23, 1883 Territorial Governor Alexander C. Hunt sold the land for the Power Plant to George Sackett for \$10,000.
 (Source Warranty Deed)

May 6, 1887, the first franchise for an electric power system was granted to H.H. Brown of Akron, Ohio and Pueblo. The 15 year franchise stipulated wood or iron poles and wires not less than 18 feet above the streets.

August 4, 1887, a group of entrepreneurs having received a franchise met at the Monte Cristo hotel near the railroad depot to discuss the advisability of organizing a company to put in an electric light plant. The result of this meeting was the incorporation of the Electric Illuminating Company of Salida, and the adoption of the Edison system of lighting. The directors for the new company were R.M. Ridgway, S.M. Jackson, W.W. Roller, Thomas Ryan, A.J. Truesdell, Ben Disman and J.M. Collins. Investors put up \$15,000 for capital stock. (Source Mountain Mail, June 9, 1889.)

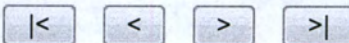
August 5, 1887, an ordinance appeared in the Salida Mail of the previous City Council meeting repealing the franchise given to H.H. Brown for failing to comply with conditions set, and granting a franchise to the above named directors. (Source: Salida Mail, August 5, 1887 page 6.)

August 26, 1887, this appeared in the Salida Mail "on Tuesday the Edison Electric Light Company ordered a complete electric plant for illumination of the town. No better advertisement of the city could be made than will be presented nightly by this light."

September 9, 1887, the first carload of poles arrived at the plant. The name of the company was changed to the Edison Electric Light Company.

X Continuation Sheet

5CF.291-C-003
 Registration, p. 3



14. BIBLIOGRAPHY

X Continuation Sheet

15. SKETCH MAP

16. PHOTOS

17. COLOR SLIDES

18. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

19. CONSENT FOR LISTING

I am the sole owner partial owner and I consent to my property being nominated to and listed in the State Register of Historic Properties.

City of Salida, Patsy Brooks, Mayor Patsy Brooks Nov. 16, 1992
Name (print) Signature Date

OTHER OWNERS

I am a partial owner of the nominated property and I consent to the property being nominated to and listed in the State Register of Historic Properties.

Name (print) Signature Date

____ Continuation Sheet

20. PREPARER OF NOMINATION

Name Mrs. Terry Barkett

Organization _____ Date 11/17/1992

Address 16150 County Road 220 Phone (719) 539-4920

City Salida Zip 81201

9/91

5CF.291-C.004
Registration p. 4



STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Salida Steam PlantSection Number: 10 Page: 1

Description

1892

The plant had several changes to it in the following three years. The one-story building is now brick, 50 x 50 feet with a cement floor, heavy masonry foundation for all the machinery and a tin roof. This room housed two engines of three times the capacity of the original engine, 4 incandescent and 2 arc dynamos. The boiler room is now twice the size of the original boiler room and is located adjoining the square brick main room. This room has a diagonal wall with small windows high on the wall. The rail siding is still serving coal to the building. There are now two smoke stacks. The new addition has a flat roof while the original building still has the sloped roof. The red bricks were made at a local brick factory on the banks of the Little Arkansas River. (Source The Salida Mail, June 5, 1900)

The entire building appears to be bricked in a photo. The building is in the exact location as the original. It is my guess that the contractor simply bricked over the frame walls enclosing the heavy machinery. In 1888 there occurred the first of two major fires in downtown Salida. The newspaper repeatedly ran stories of the businesses and residences that were being constructed in brick.

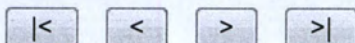
1904

In a picture taken in 1904 from the Dick Dixon collection a third smokestack can now be seen at the Steam Plant. The entire building now has a flat roof.

1916

The red brick 50 x 50 main building is still present. A new addition now appears in a photo taken in 1916 by L.C. McClure behind the small room housing the boilers next to the main room. Two smokestacks have been replaced by one large stack with Colorado Power Co displayed on it. The new addition has a dormer with windows. The room continued its use as a coal bin and a generator room. The rail spur is still evident in the photo.

5CF.291-C-005
Registration, p.5



STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Salida Steam PlantSection Number: 10 Page: 2

Description

1926

A major addition has been added to the Steam Plant. The addition runs across the back of both rooms. The exterior has a lighter brick and two pointed roofs. The one smokestack remains. The back walls of the old rooms were removed so that the addition creates two large rooms. The dormer has been removed. The roof over the northwest addition has a skylight running the length of the addition.

1959 Smoke stack removed.

1992

The building now appears as it was in 1926 with the addition of handicapped facilities. The east door has a cement handicap ramp with railing. The north or river side has a wood deck and handicap ramp. The brick on the original 50 x 50 building has been cleaned by hand brushing.

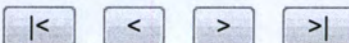
Landscaping: original

The Steam Plant is located on the banks of the Arkansas River in downtown Salida. To the east of the building is the narrow-gauge railroad line that went up to the Monarch limestone mine through Poncha Springs. Between the railroad tracks and the building is an irrigation ditch which remains today. To the west of the building was a short dead-end spur to bring in coal to the building. The building is located one block from F Street the main business district. Across the river from the Steam plant was the railroad yard which is still present today. Through the years there has always been considerable development in the area of the plant.

Present day landscaping.

The railroad yard and irrigation ditch remain. The rail spur and rail tracks to Monarch have been removed. The track right of way is now a boat loading ramp for the Arkansas River. The ramp was constructed from local funds and a donation from Coors. The east side of the Steam Plant displays a curved walkway to the back of the building and a wooden arched bridge over the irrigation ditch to access the boat ramp. Trees, flowers, and wood chip mulch finish the landscaping on the east side. The back or river side of the building has had

5CF.291-C-006
Registration, p. 6



STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Salida Steam PlantSection Number: 10 & 11 Page: 3

Description & Alterations

some trees planted and pruning done. The west side of the building has an eight foot chain link fence enclosing an area 90 x 155 feet. Plans for a handicapped accessible sculpture garden are in process for this enclosed area.

INTERIOR

The Steam Plant consists of two large rooms, one being used for theater and the other planned for a community room. Both rooms have very high ceilings. The theater room has a steel beam with chain wench. A stair way leads to the basement. There is an open balcony in one corner of the room. The brick walls have been painted grey. A foyer and rest rooms were divided from this room. The floor is cement, there is an overhead door in the front of the building and three windows that have been shuttered on the inside. One of the front windows had glass blocks put in sometime in the 1950's. The second room is in its original condition. The dormer has rows of windows on each side. The front of the building has a badly deteriorating brick wall and support beams. There is another overhead door and two shuttered windows. The floor is cement and dirt. A portion of the west wall is tin. This front section was the coal bin. The room is presently occupied by pigeons. The roof in both rooms is tin.

ALTERATIONS TO THE PROPERTY

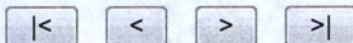
1958, The Steam Plant was converted to storage.

1959, The building became a warehouse, workshop and garage. A wall was built in the basement to support trucks. The smokestack was removed.

1989

The brick on the east or original building was hand cleaned. A handicapped cement ramp was added to the east side door. On the river or north side of the building a wood deck and wood handicapped ramp was constructed. A cement curved walkway was added to the east side of the building. The interior brick walls were painted grey. A portion of the theater room was partitioned off to construct two rest rooms and a foyer. The theater room has removable theater seating installed on tiers. The roof was patched. The second Room remains in its original condition except for wood shutters over the inside of the windows. The glass in the dormer was replaced but has since been broken out by the pigeons.

5CF.291-C-007
Registration, p.7



STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Salida Steam PlantSection Number: 13 Page: 4

September 16, 1887, machinery was on site and workers were ready to start on the building which would house equipment to light the city. The steam plant was built by local contractors.

Owen Owens was named engineer for the Edison Electric Light Company. (Source: Under the Angel of Shavano).

September 23, 1887, "S.M. Jackson (a building supply owner) is pushing work upon the buildings for the electric light." Source: Salida Mail, September 23, 1887.

October 4, 1887 George Sackett sold the land to The Edison Electric Light-Company of Salida Colorado for \$583.33. (Source Warranty Deed)

October 21, 1887, "Hervey and Robinson contractors have a large force of men at work on the new building for the electric light." Source: Salida Mail

October 28, 1887, the 75 foot smoke stack was put into position.

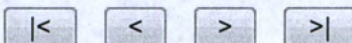
October 28, 1887, "The electric light lamps have arrived". Source" Salida Mail.

November 25, 1887, "The electric light plant is very near ready to light up our business houses." Source Salida Mail

November 27, 1887, the first electric light in Salida was turned on. (Source The Salida Mail, June 5, 1900.

December 7, 1887 Edison's Electric Light system fired up at the Salida Steam Plant, lighting the incandescent lamps on the F Street bridge.

5CF.291-C-008
Registration, p. 8



STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Salida Steam PlantSection Number: 13 Page: 5

February 22, 1888 the City of Salida and the power company entered into a contract for \$50 a month.

1889 new arc lights were installed at First and F, Third and F, D and First, D and Fourth, E and Fifth and Third and Poncha Blvd streets.

February 10, 1915, Salida Light, Power and Utility Co. sold the plant to the Colorado Power Co. for \$100. (Source Special Warranty Deed).

September 3, 1924 the Colorado Power Company sold the Plant to the Public Service Company of Colorado for \$1.00. (Source Warranty deed).

The Steam Plant was in operation until 1953. In 1958 the plant was retired and converted to storage.

August 1987, Public Service Company of Colorado sold the plant to the Salida Enterprise for Economic Development (SEED) for \$40,000. (Source: Mountain Mail)

1989 Renovation began on the theater room.

June 1989 first production began of summer stock theater by the Powerhouse Players, a professional theatrical group from Texas.

December 6, 1991 Salida Enterprise for Economic Development (SEED) sold to the City of Salida the Steam Plant for \$10. (Source Quit Claim Deed).

1993 Renovation continues on the "Pigeon Room" and Sculpture Garden.

5CF.291-C_009

Registration, p. 9



STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Salida Steam PlantSection Number: 13 Page: 6

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

Commerce

The year was 1880 and the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was extending up the Arkansas River from the Royal Gorge. Town and land development was critical to the Railroad. A party of Denver and Rio Grande Railroad engineers working under the supervision of Territorial Governor Hunt surveyed the town site of South Arkansas late in April 1880. The land had been homesteaded by Luther Baker and Josiah Hulbert who subsequently sold their homesteads to Governor Hunt each receiving \$500. The original plat was filed at 10:30 am September 21, 1880. Governor Hunt's wife gave the town its name of Salida. In 1880 the tracks were laid and the town was platted with blocks that were 325 feet square containing lots 25 ft x 150 ft. In the first week that the D & RG offered lots for sale, the company netted over \$10,000. Salida was to become a major narrow-gauge and standard-gauge mainline terminal filled with a busy car shop, locomotive shop, railroad hospital and a 14 stall brick roundhouse.

During 1881 and 1882 rails left Salida in three directions: west over Marshall Pass to Gunnison and Grand Junction, west to the Monarch Mines, south to San Luis Valley and north to Leadville. In less than three years Salida had become the major terminal for a narrow-gauge empire, a position it would hold for over half a century.

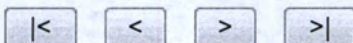
1885 the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad constructed the Railroad Hospital.

Thomas Edison established his first electrical station on Pearl Street New York in 1882.

1887 "Salida also achieved distinction in 1887 by installing one of the first Edison Electric Light Systems". Source: Trails Among the Columbine.

"The electric light plant now being established will be the most substantial in the state", Salida Mail, September 23, 1887.

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The D & RG was one of the Edison's Systems first customers.

They bought power for 10 arc lights and 125 incandescent lights, 16 candlepower lamps at a total cost of \$200 per month.

The Steam Plant housed a boiler in the boiler room providing steam for operating the generator. The boiler was fueled by coal and the coal was dumped into the Steam Plant through windows on the west side of the building.

The generator, provided by two direct current incandescent dynamos, was driven by a stationary piston type engine. A 75 foot smoke stack provided outlet for the steam.

Rates for electricity for 16 candlepower storelighters were \$1.50/month until 10 pm, \$1.75 until midnight and \$2.25 all night.

The Steam Plant significantly remains in its original condition. The modifications completed to the building have not altered its appearance. Rather they have made it more accessible to the people. The plans for renovation include leaving the building as much as possible in its original state. The improvements will be those relating to safety, preservation and handicap accessibility. The Steam Plant has a truly magic quality about it that everyone feels as they enter the building. A slight smell of oil and coal remain. The walls are smudged and they will remain that way.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

The Steam Plant is being presented for nomination of Historical Designation because of the Steam Plant's signal role in the introduction of electricity to Salida. This plant was one of the very first to try out the new invention of Thomas Edison, only five years after Mr Edison had lighted the lamps on Pearl Street in New York. Through the courage of seven local entrepreneurs, Salida received electricity. This plant is a testimonial to their daring, forward thinking and dedication to the town of Salida.

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STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Salida Steam Plant

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The original frame walls are gone, bricked over in 1892 after a fire in downtown Salida destroyed many buildings. Four of the original founders; Ridgeway, Jackson, Roller and Disman stayed with the project as officers of the Board of Directors expanding the building and equipment as needed to support the growth of the town.

The Steam Plant stands as a reminder to those early days of entrepreneurship, commerce, and risk taking, so characteristic of the spirit of the American West.

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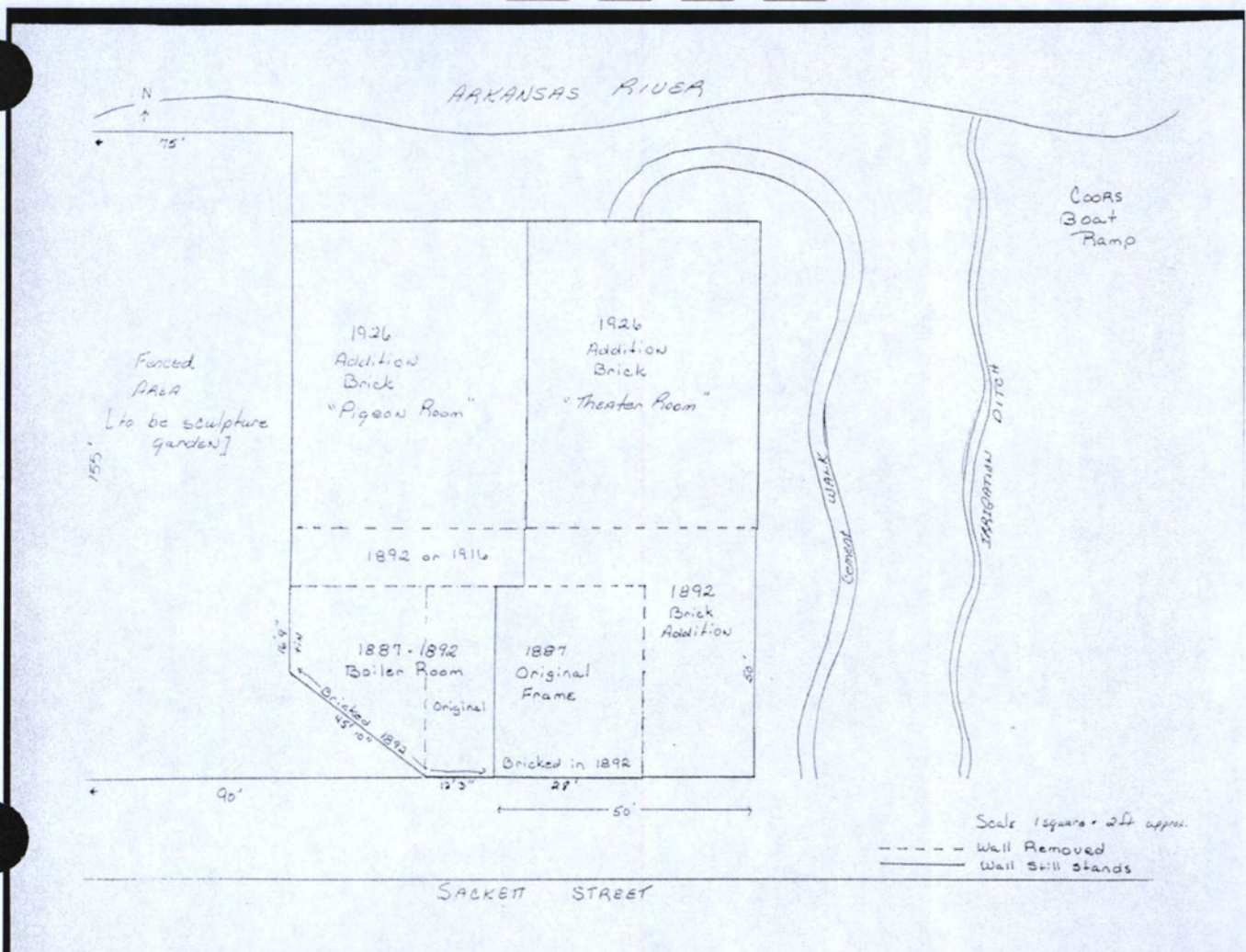
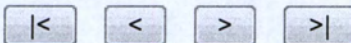
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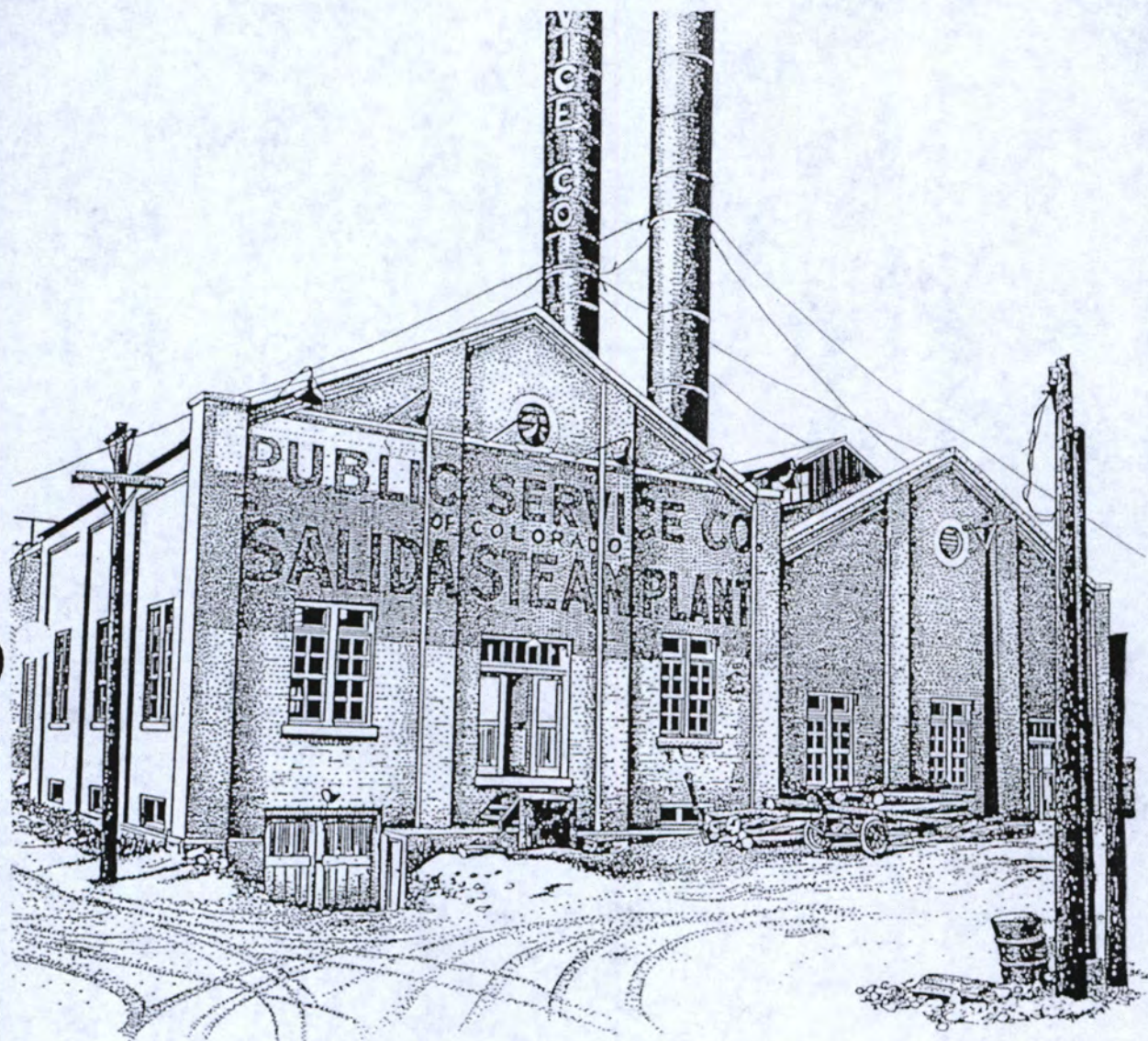
Salida Mail 1887

Mountain Mail, 1957

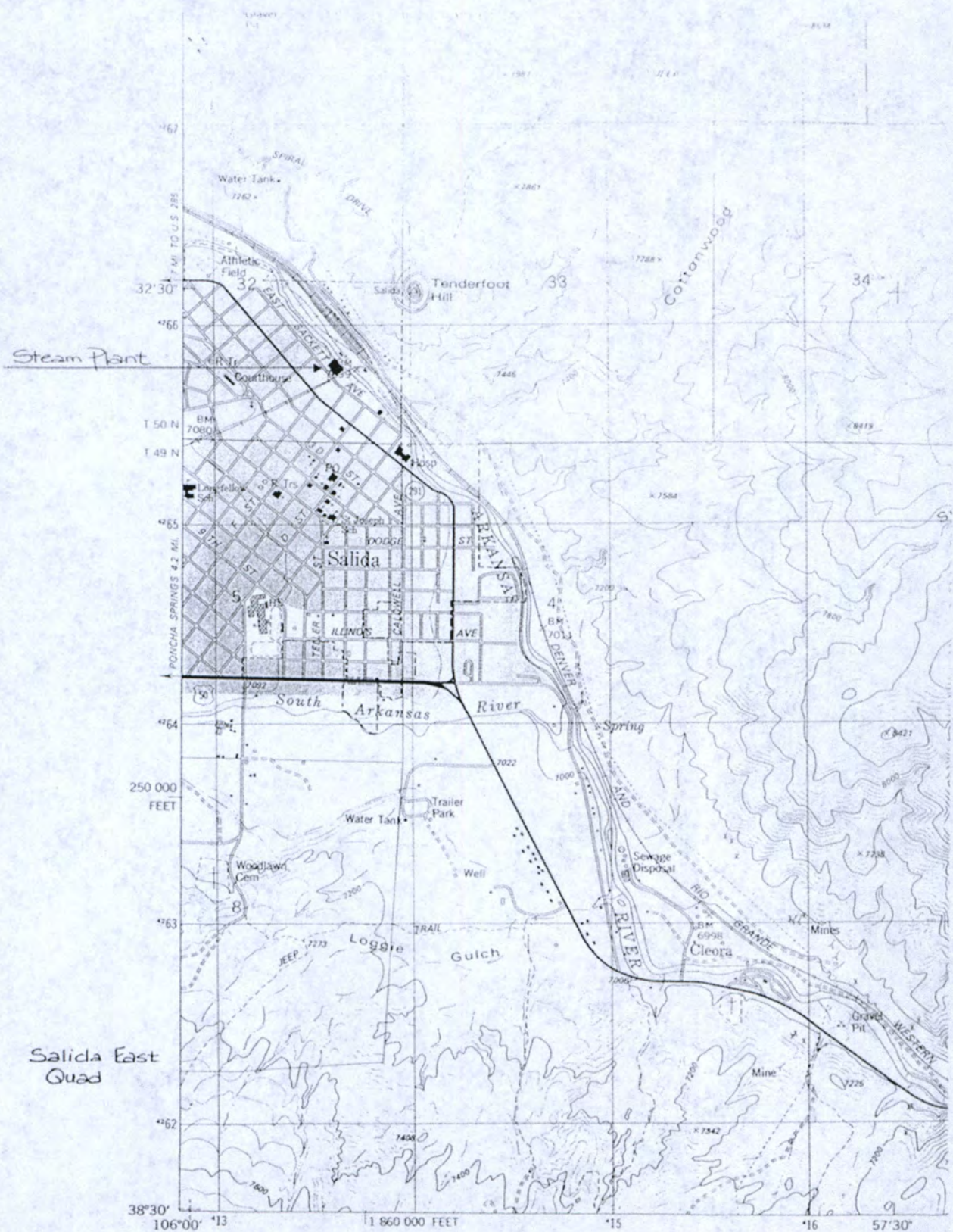
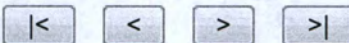
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 map, Registration p. 13



5CF.291-C-014
Drawing, registration
p.14



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 map, Registration p.15



11/1992



11/1992
Facing South



11/1992

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11/1992
West wall
Pigeon Room



11/1992
Pigeon Room

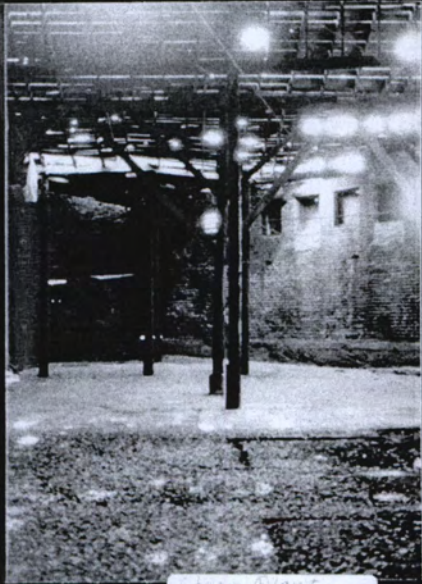


11/1992
Facing North

5CF.291-C-017
Notes, registration p.17



Steam Plant
Salida 11-1992

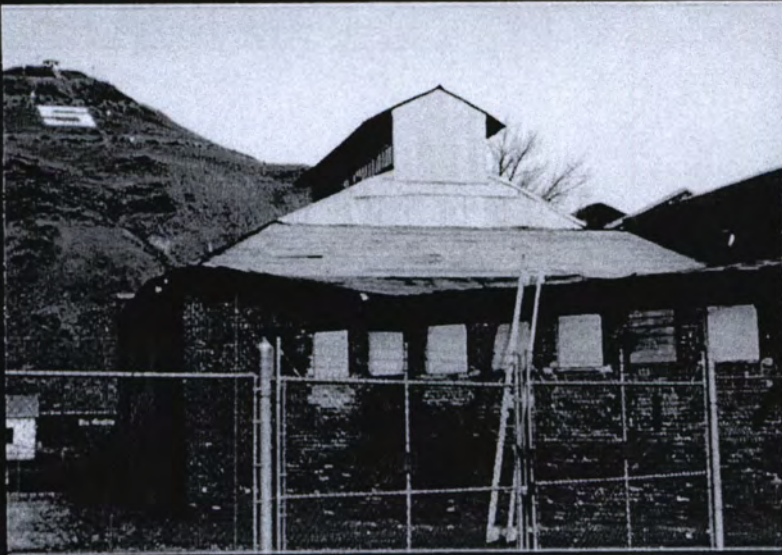


Steam Plant
Pigeon Room 11-1992



Steam Plant
East wall 11-1992

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Steam Plant
West Side 11-1992



Steam Plant
Southside 11-1992

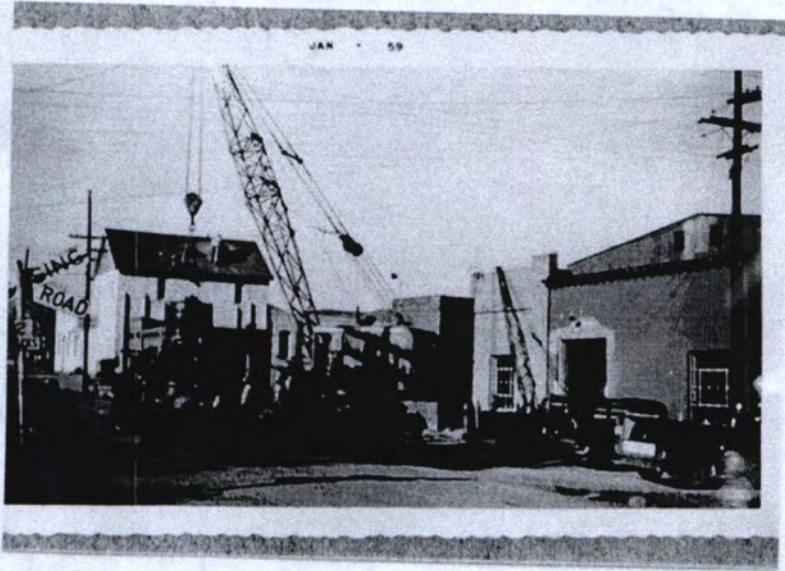


Steam Plant
South Side 11-1992

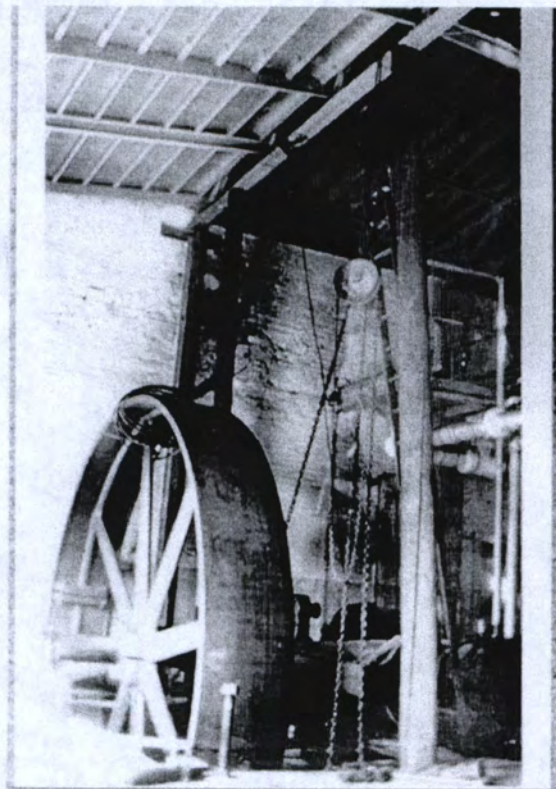
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Generator being
Removed in 1959



Corliss wheel before removal in 1959

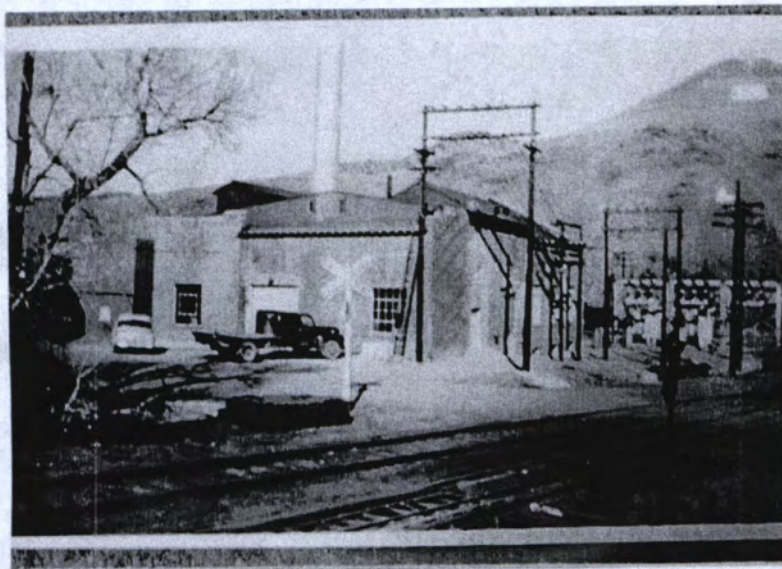
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1916



Approximately
1949

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