

COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1300 Broadway Denver, CO 80203

HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY

Office Use Only site no. 5CF 850

eligible for National Register yes no
date _____ initials _____
criteria A B C D
contributes to a potential National Register district
 yes no district name: _____

eligible for State Register yes no
date _____ initials _____
criteria a b c d e
areas of significance: _____

period of significance _____
needs data _____ date _____ initials _____

local landmark designation yes no

date of designation _____
designating authority: _____

P.M. N.M. township 50N range 9E
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 32

UTM reference N/A
Zone 13 Easting 413080 Northing 4265720

USGS quad name N/A Salida East
year _____ 7.5' 15'

ALL of Strip B Eddy Brothers Addition
block _____ lot(s) _____
New Courtrooms, Sheriff Dispatch & Jail
addition _____ year of addition 1968

original location moved
date of moves(s) _____

historic use: Courthouse
present use: Administration Building

date of construction estimate 1930 actual 1932
source of information: _____

architect: W. DeMordaunt
source of information: American Legion Minutes
and Mountain Mail (local newspaper)

builder/contractor: American Legion Post 64
W.T. Mitchell, E.W. Tucker, Wellsville
source of information: Travertine Quarry &
many others
American Legion Minutes

original owner: Ray Lines Post No. 64
American Legion
source of information: American Legion
Minutes and Deed to County Commissioners
dated May 5, 1933

associated buildings yes no
type: _____

county:

Chaffee

city:

Salida

historic building name:

Chaffee County Courthouse

current building name:

Chaffee County Administrative Building

address:

104 Crestone Avenue
Salida, Colorado 81201

owner name & address:

The Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners
104 Crestone Avenue
PO Box 699 (Mailing)
Salida, CO 81201

style:

Art Deco

building type:

Courthouse

materials:

Brick, Travertine, Granite, Aluminum, Concrete,
Glazed Molded Brick, Plaster Molded Ceilings & Walls
Trazo Floors

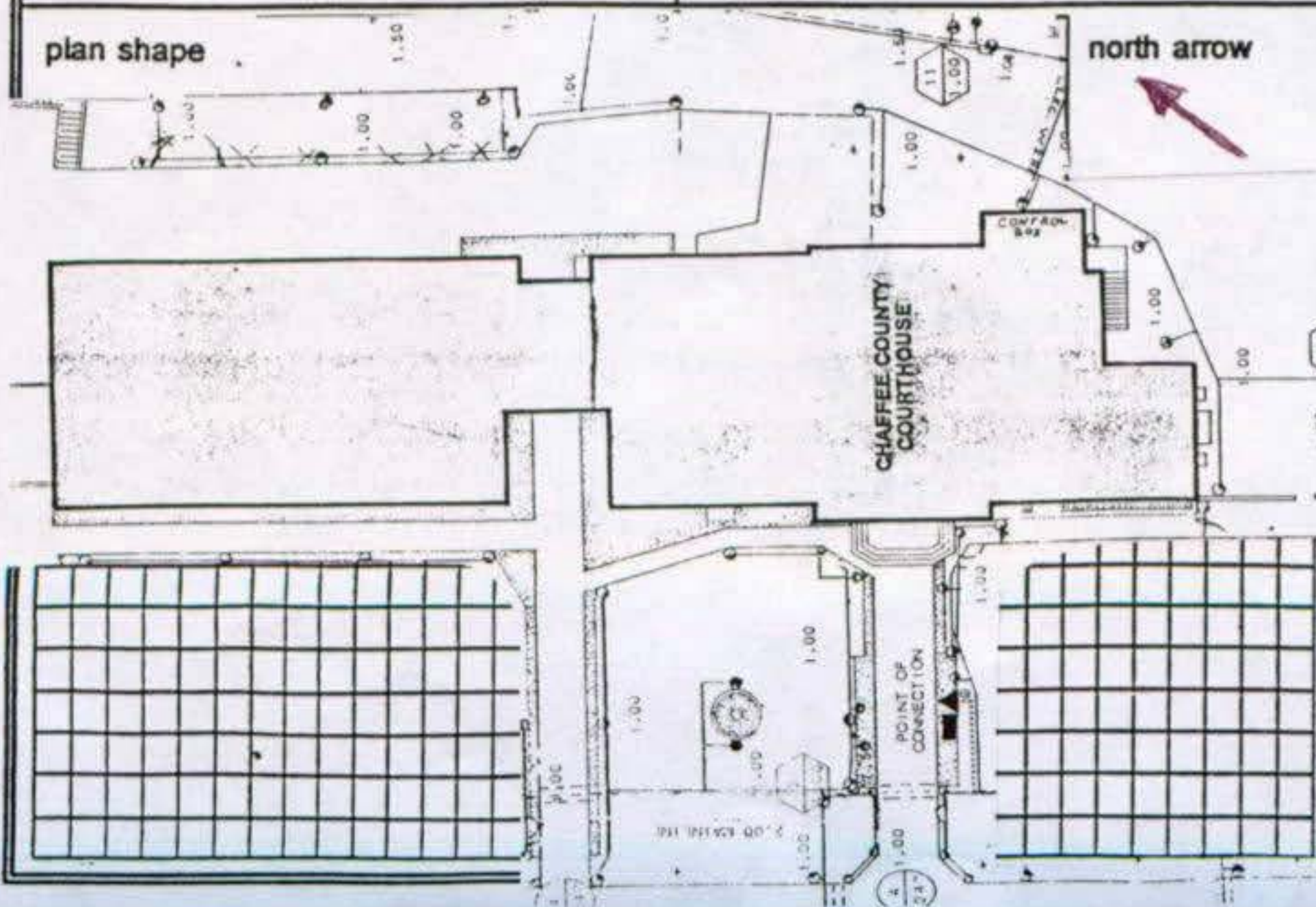
stories:

3 Stories and Basement

square footage:

15,579 sq. ft.

plan shape



architect: W. DeMordaunt

source of information: American Legion Minutes
and Mountain Mail (local newspaper)

builder/contractor: American Legion Post 64
W.T. Mitchell, E.W. Tucker, Wellsville
source of information: Travertine Quarry &
many others
American Legion Minutes

original owner: Ray Lines Post No. 64
American Legion
source of information: American Legion
Minutes and Deed to County Commissioners
dated May 5, 1933

associated buildings yes no
type: _____

architectural description: OUTSIDE: Art Deco, Molded Brick, Front Carved Travertine Entrance, Granite Front Steps, Aluminum Window Frames, Deco Travertine Foundation All Around Building

INSIDE: Wrought Iron and Travertine Stairs, Molded Plaster Walls and Ceilings, Main Floors have beautiful colored Trazo Deco Floors, Deco Light Fixtures in Halls, Coffin shaped Doors and Frames with Deco Windows.

___ additional page(s)

photographs: include photographs showing each side of building and any associated buildings

construction history (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions):

- 1968 New Courtrooms and Jail — An addition ?
- 1977 New Light Fixtures in Offices
- 1978 Old Jail removed from Basement
- 1980 New Storm Windows Replacing Iron Sash Windows ?
aluminum

___ additional page(s)

historical background (discuss important persons and events associated with this building):

Ray Line Post No. 64, American Legion purchased the land and built the current building in 1932. This building has served the community for various political and community functions and meetings as well as for court hearings and proceedings, housing of jail inmates and voting purposes.

___ additional page(s)

information sources (be specific):

Dennis Morain, Buildings Supervisor Chaffee County Employed March 1, 1972
104 Crestone Avenue
PO Box 699 (mailing)
Salida, CO 81201
(719)539-2218

___ additional page(s)

significance (check appropriate categories)

architectural significance
 represents the work of a master
 possess high artistic value
 represents a type, period or method of construction

historical significance
 associated with significant person(s)
 associated with significant event
 associated with a pattern of events
 contributes to an historic district

theme(s)

statement of significance (briefly justify the significance checked above):

The Salida Downtown Area is a Historic District. The Chaffee County Courthouse is located approximately 4 blocks from this area. The construction of the Building was designed and built to the architectural style for that period of time. The inside of the building has Deco Design with Coffin Shaped doors; which are very unique in style.

___ additional page(s)

inventory completed by:

date: February 28, 1996

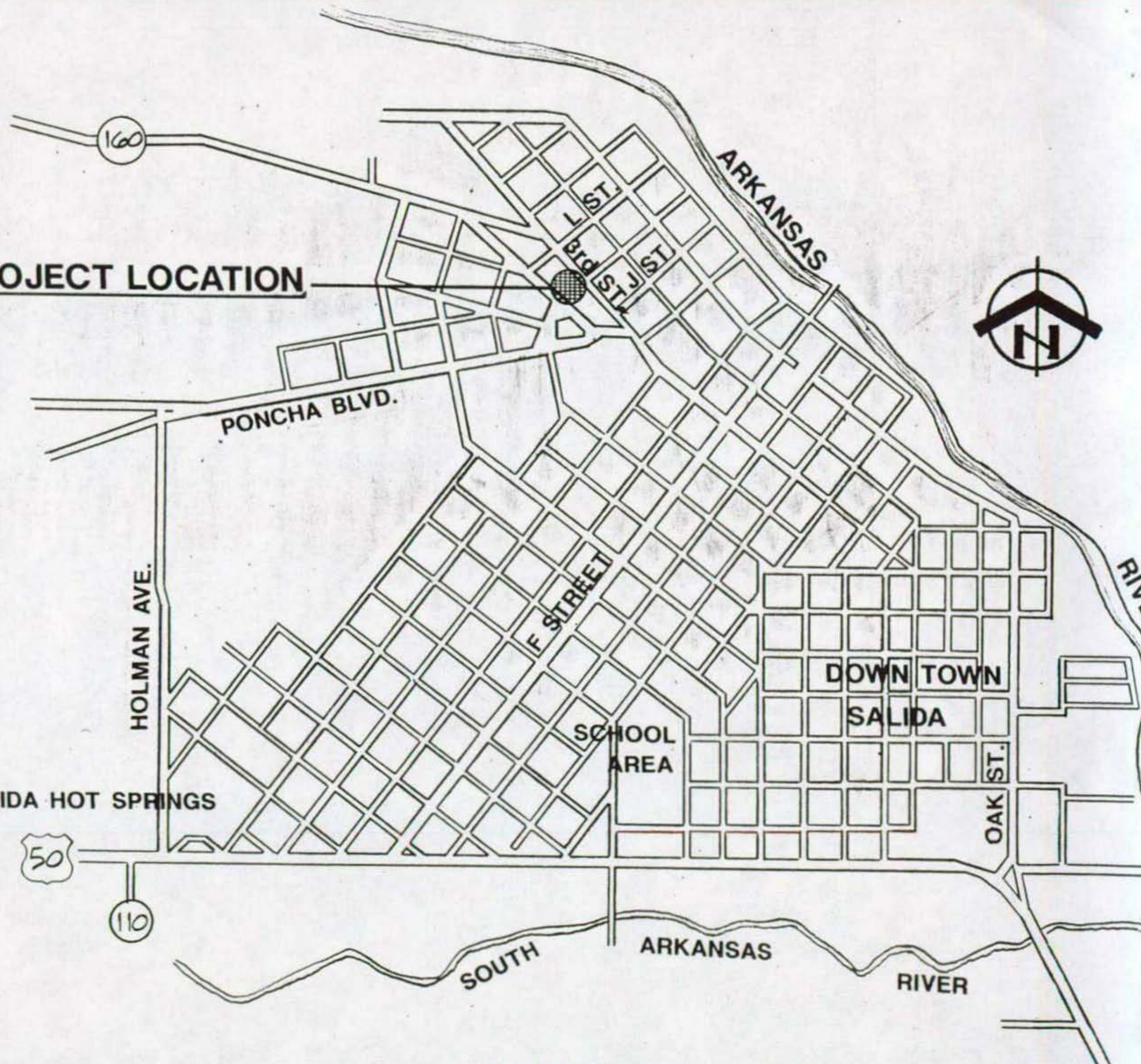
address: 104 Crestone Avenue
PO Box 699 (mailing)
Salida, CO 81201

phone:
(719)539-2218

PROJECT LOCATION



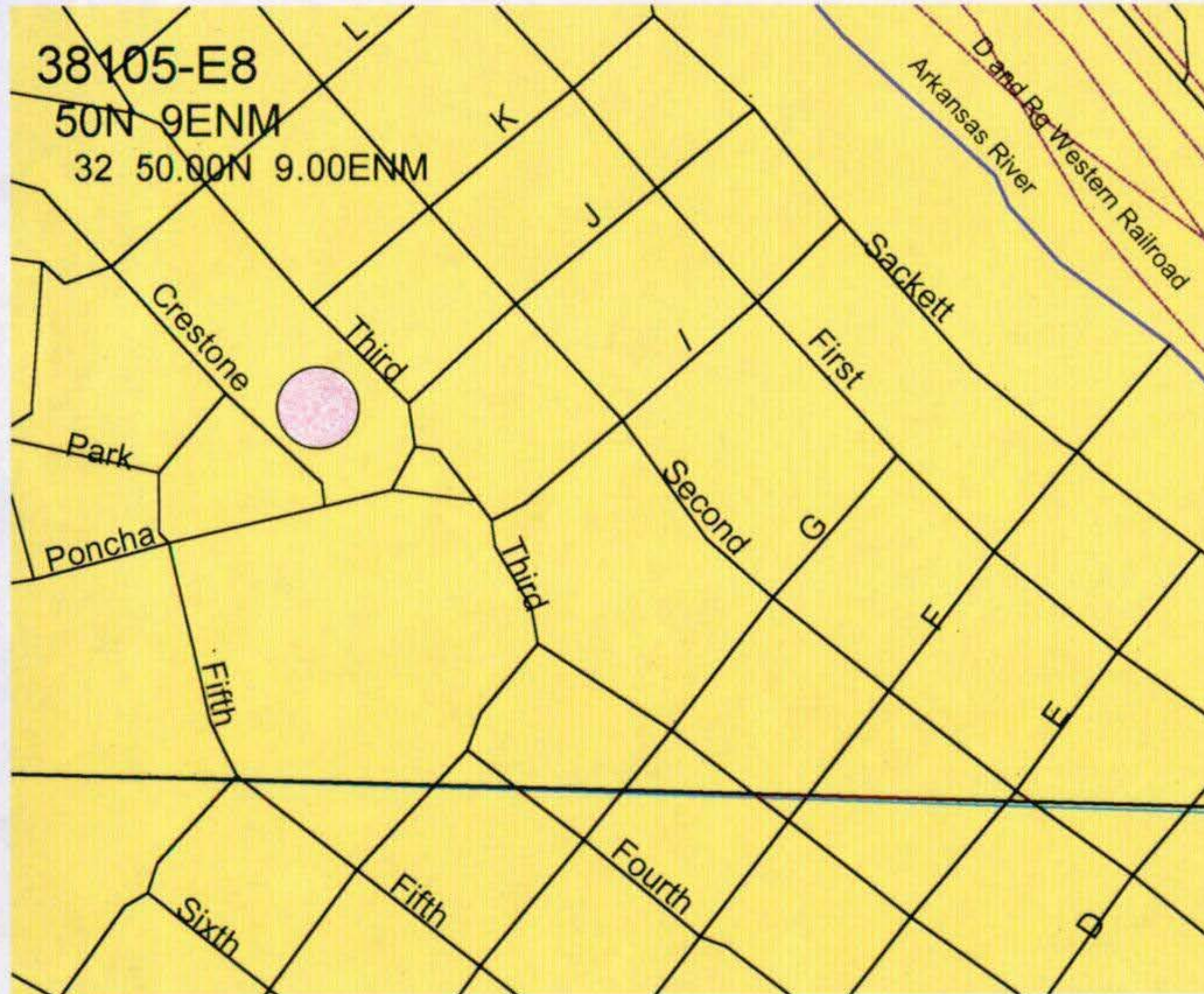
WEST HWY 50 TO
PONCHA SPRINGS



VICINITY MAP



Location of Chaffee County Courthouse



- Railroads
- ROADS (TIG)
- Major Rivers & Streams (TIG)
- Township & Range
- Sections
- 1:24000 Quads (7.5')
- Cities
- Towns
- COUNTIES

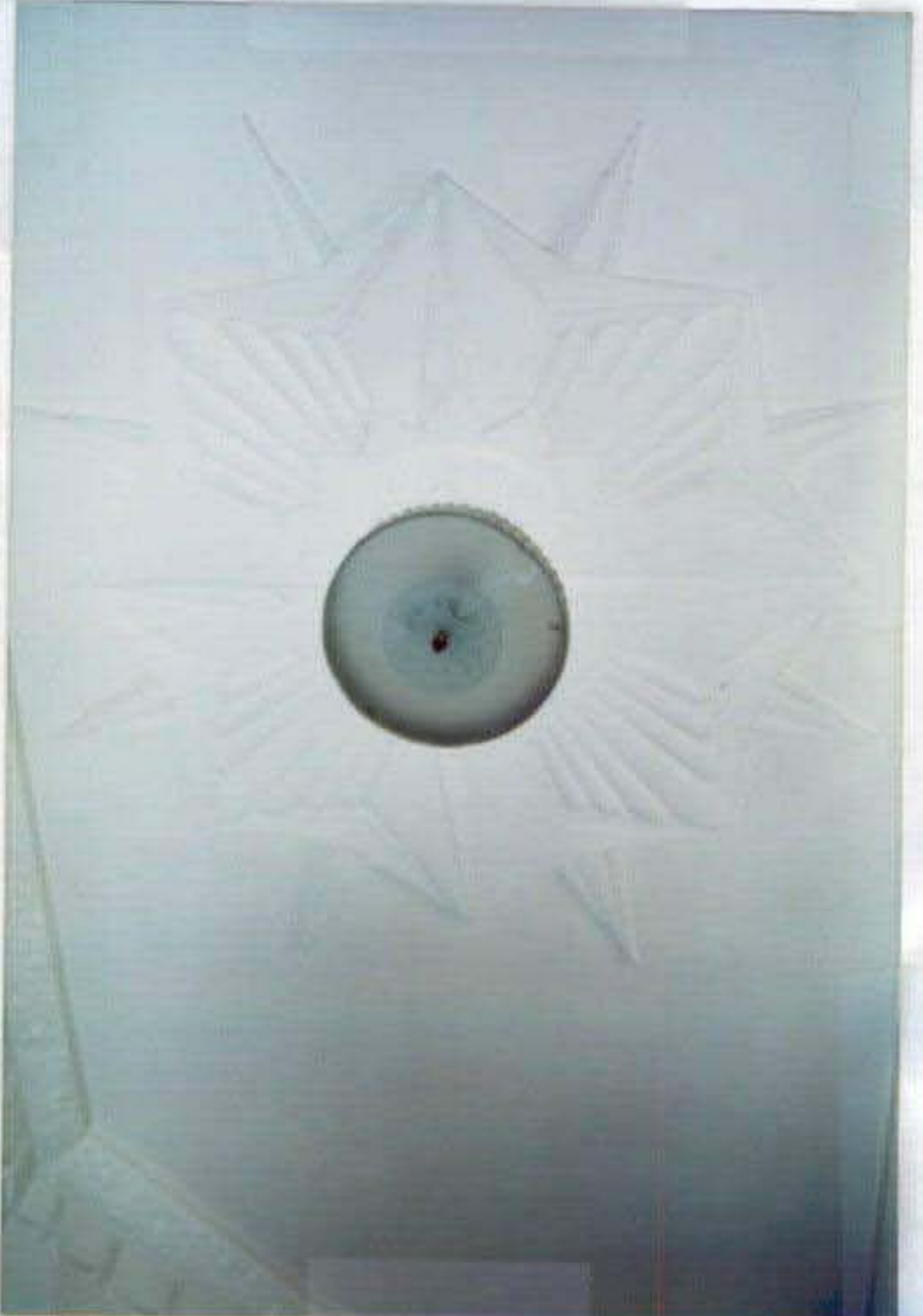




1996



1996





1996





1996



Site Number SCF850

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.

COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR OFFICIAL USE:

Site Number 5CF850

5-1-96 Nomination Received

Determined Eligible Not Eligible

8-16-96 Review Board Approved Denied

9-11-96 CHS Board Approved Denied

Level of Significance: National State Local

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

NOMINATION FORM

1. Name of Property

Historic Name Chaffee County Courthouse

Current Name Chaffee County Administrative Building

2. Address of Property

Street Address 104 Crestone Avenue

City Salida County Chaffee Zip 81201

3. Legal Description of Property

P.M. N.M. Township 50N Range 9E

SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 32 Quad Map Salida East

Lot(s) All of strip B Block Addition Eddy Brothers' Addition

UTM Reference: Zone 13 Easting 413080 Northing 4265720

Verbal Boundary Description

(describe the boundaries of the nominated property on a continuation sheet)

4. Present Owner of Property

Name The Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners

Address 104 Crestone Avenue / PO Box 699 Phone 719-539-2218

City Salida State CO Zip 81201

(if the property is in multiple ownership, please give the names and addresses of each owner on one or more continuation sheets)

5. Preparer of Nomination

Name Dennis Morain, Buildings Supervisor Date April 5, 1996

Organization Chaffee County

Address 104 Crestone Avenue / PO Box 699 Phone 719-539-2218

City Salida State CO Zip 81201

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

6. Classification of Property

Type building(s) district site structure object area

Has the property received local historic designation?

no yes --- individual in district

date designated _____

designated by _____ (Name of municipality or county)

7. Condition of Property

excellent good fair deteriorated ruins

original location moved (date of move _____)

8. Use of Property

Historic GOVERNMENT/courthouse, government office, correctional facility,

Current GOVERNMENT/government office, correctional facility

9. Original Owner American Legion, Ray Lines Post No. 64

Source of Information American Legion minutes and recorded deed to Chaffee County Commissioners dated
May 5, 1933

10. Year of Construction 1932; 1968 addition

Source of Information American Legion minutes

11. Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer

Walter DeMordaunt

Source of Information American Legion minutes and Mountain Mail (local newspaper)

12. Architectural style/Engineering type

Art Deco

13. Description

(describe the current condition and appearance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

14. Alterations

(describe and date significant changes made to the original property on one or more continuation sheets)

15. Significance of Property

Nomination Criteria

- a - property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history
- b - property is connected with persons significant in history
- c - property has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan
- d - property is of geographic importance
- e - property contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history

Areas of Significance

Architecture

16. Significance Statement

(explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

17. Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

18. Legislative Information

Colorado House District # 61 or Name of Representative Ken Chlouber

Colorado Senate District # 4 or Name of Senator Linda Powers

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO ACCOMPANY NOMINATION

19. Sketch Map

20. Photocopy of USGS Map

21. Black & White Photos

22. Color Slides

23. Optional Materials

24. Owner Consent for Nomination

(attach signed and notarized consent from each owner of property - see next page)

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
OWNER CONSENT FORM

Each partial owner must sign a separate form. Reproduce form as needed.
All signatures must be notarized.

Property Name Chaffee County Courthouse

I, Glen E. Everett
(type or print name)

Commissioner
title

certify that I am the sole owner ___ /partial owner X of the land and property located at

104 Crestone Avenue
street number and name

Salida Chaffee
city county

and that I hereby give my written consent and approval for this property's nomination to and inclusion in the
Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

Glen E. Everett
signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me, in my presence, this 2 day of

April, 1996, a Notary Public in and for the

(county) (state) of Chaffee County Colorado

with office
My term expires: _____



Mary Ellen Belmar
Notary Public
Chaffee County Clerk & Recorder

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
OWNER CONSENT FORM

Each partial owner must sign a separate form. Reproduce form as needed.
All signatures must be notarized.

Property Name Chaffee County Courthouse

I, Frank C. McMurry
(type or print name)

Chairman, Chaffee County Board of Commissioners
title

certify that I am the sole owner ___/partial owner X of the land and property located at
104 Crestone Avenue
street number and name

Salida Chaffee
city county

and that I hereby give my written consent and approval for this property's nomination to and inclusion in the
Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

Frank C. McMurry
signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me, in my presence, this 2 day of
April, 1996, a Notary Public in and for the
(county) (state) of Chaffee County Colorado
with office
My term expires: _____



Mary Ellen Belmar
Notary Public
Chaffee County Clerk & Recorder

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
OWNER CONSENT FORM

Each partial owner must sign a separate form. Reproduce form as needed.
All signatures must be notarized.

Property Name Chaffee County Courthouse

I, James R. Thompson
(type or print name)

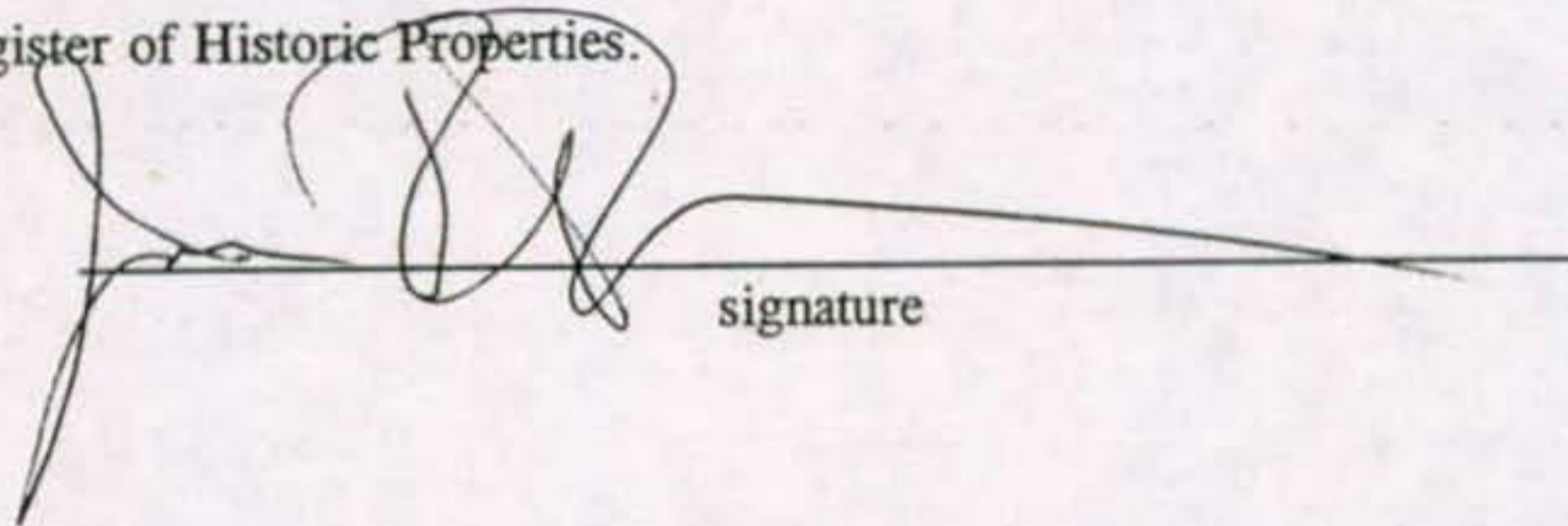
Commissioner
title

certify that I am the sole owner ___ / partial owner x of the land and property located at

104 Crestone Avenue
street number and name

Salida Chaffee
city county

and that I hereby give my written consent and approval for this property's nomination to and inclusion in the
Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

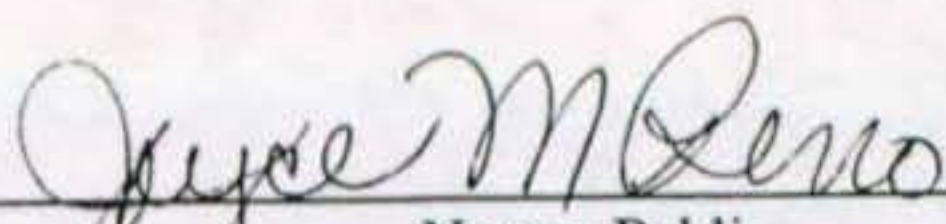

signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me, in my presence, this 2nd day of
April, 1996, a Notary Public in and for the
(county) (state) of Chaffee County, Colorado

My term expires: with office



(seal)


Notary Public
Deputy County Clerk and Recorder
Chaffee County, Salida, Colorado

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Section Number 3 & 13 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property is an easterly portion of Strip B and is indicated on the accompanying sketch map.

DESCRIPTION

The building is located atop a transitional hill between what is locally known as the Mesa and the balance of the town. It is near the middle of the plot of land [Strip B]. The main entrance faces Thonhoff Park, which is maintained by the City of Salida. Landscaping includes numerous flower beds, well maintained grassy areas, and a small fountain. A WPA-constructed cobblestone retaining wall outlines a portion of easterly perimeter. Diagonal parking is provided at the front of the building, with additional space at the northwest end.

The Chaffee County Courthouse includes the 1932 original Art Deco construction and a compatibly-designed 1968 addition. The original building is three story brick with an irregular rectangular plan and a stepped back third story. The flat roof was originally covered with tar paper, later gravel, and is now covered with state-of-the-art rubberized membrane. The foundation is reinforced (rebar) poured concrete up to 24 inches thick faced with travertine above ground level and below the first floor windows on the front and sides of the building. The walls of the building are faced with high-fired, mixed dark and light, tan brick. The parapet trim on the second and third stories is glazed, ivory, terra cotta "dentilling," in contrast to the mixed yellow brick. The stylized detailing is travertine, glazed terra cotta and aluminum casting.

The slightly projecting entrance bay is marked by the three story set-back and a carved travertine entry. The west-southwest facing entrance is on blue-grey granite steps, which lead to double leaf doors of oak-cased glass panels with brass hardware. Flanking the doors are octagonal lamps and the entry is topped with a floriated carved travertine plate. *Chaffee County Court House* is carved in the travertine above the entrance and is capped by a wave and flower pattern in ivory glazed tile with a vertical high relief decoration of sunrise with rays and flowers. Above the sunrise decoration, the line of the entryway is emphasized by the vertical arrangement of two sets of three narrow windows (one set per floor) with spandrels of floriated cast aluminum detailing. The entry is flanked by two tall, narrow windows.

The panoply of Art Deco highlights used to emphasize the entryway is continued on the front and sides of the building's stepped back, two-story "wings." Cartouche-like panels of terra cotta with sunrise and floriated patterns are used to highlight corners, chimneys, and the expanse of the upper story walls. The vertical emphasis is heightened by the ribbed piers of glazed terra cotta. Cast aluminum spandrel panels provide further decoration.

The windows were originally metal frame, multiple lights. About ten years ago, these were replaced with double hung, single light, more energy efficient windows, storm windows and screens.

The rear of the building is less ornate. The terra cotta and cast aluminum details are replaced with geometric patterns in corresponding locations on the rear of the building. The "dentilled" parapet detail is continued in brick and stucco replaces the travertine facing.

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Section Number 13 & 14 Page 2

The original building was expanded to the north with the 1968 construction of the Courthouse Annex. Architects Edward A. DeVilbiss and Charles E. Gathers designed the flat roof, tan brick addition that has two stories with a full basement. The addition was constructed to match as closely as possible the existing building. Bricks were sought which were similar in color to the original. Many of the artifices used on the back of the original structure were used to make the lines of the newer structure conform (at least in feeling) to the original building.

The end wall of the original building was cut and the buildings were joined by a recessed glass atrium. The first floor has a terrazzo floor with a single wide fire door giving entry into the older building. The second floor is joined to the older building by a skyway. The primary entrance to the new building is through the glass doors of the atrium.

Upon entering the front doors of the original building, one is treated to an alcove. The upper section of the alcove is of cut glass with an inverted chevron design. The hand-made arched interior doors are assembled from contrasting woods in an upright chevron pattern, with diamond-shaped cut glass panes. The floor in the lobby is Art Deco-styled terrazzo and the doors of the first and second floor offices are coffin shaped. The original light fixtures in the halls are hung from Art Deco plaster medallions. Original wall sconce lighting also remains. Medallions adorn the space above doors, and four-inch morning glory(?) decorative trim marks the point where the walls join the ceilings (spaces above the doors). The main lobby stairs to the second floor have travertine steps and landings with Art Deco railings of wrought iron and aluminum. A large medallion adorns the wall above the landings, and smaller medallions can be found over the basement stairs.

ALTERATIONS

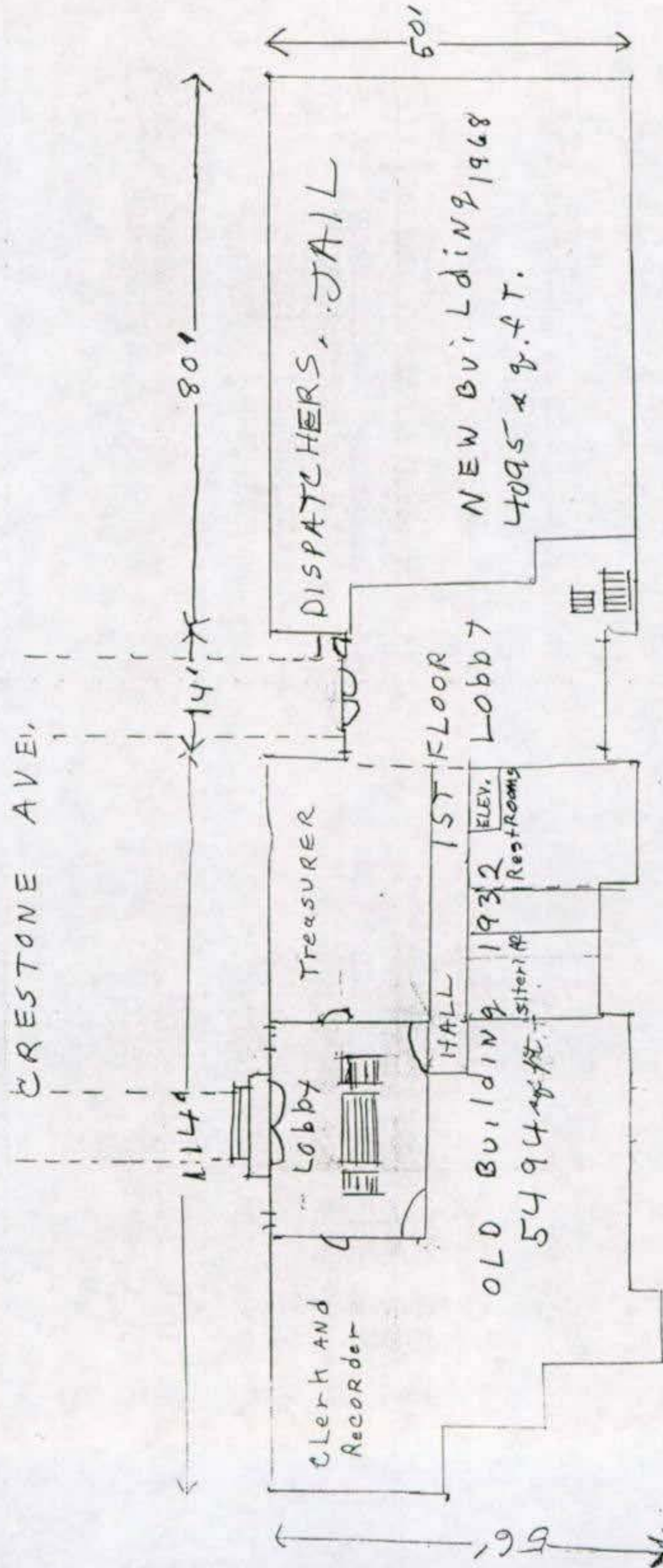
1968	addition creating new courtrooms and jail
1977	fluorescent light fixtures installed in offices
1978	old jail removed from basement
1980	iron sash windows replaced and aluminum storm windows installed
1990	old 3rd floor courtroom remodeled into offices

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Section Number 13 Page 3

Floor plan - 1st floor



Chaffee County
COURT HOUSE
4-1996

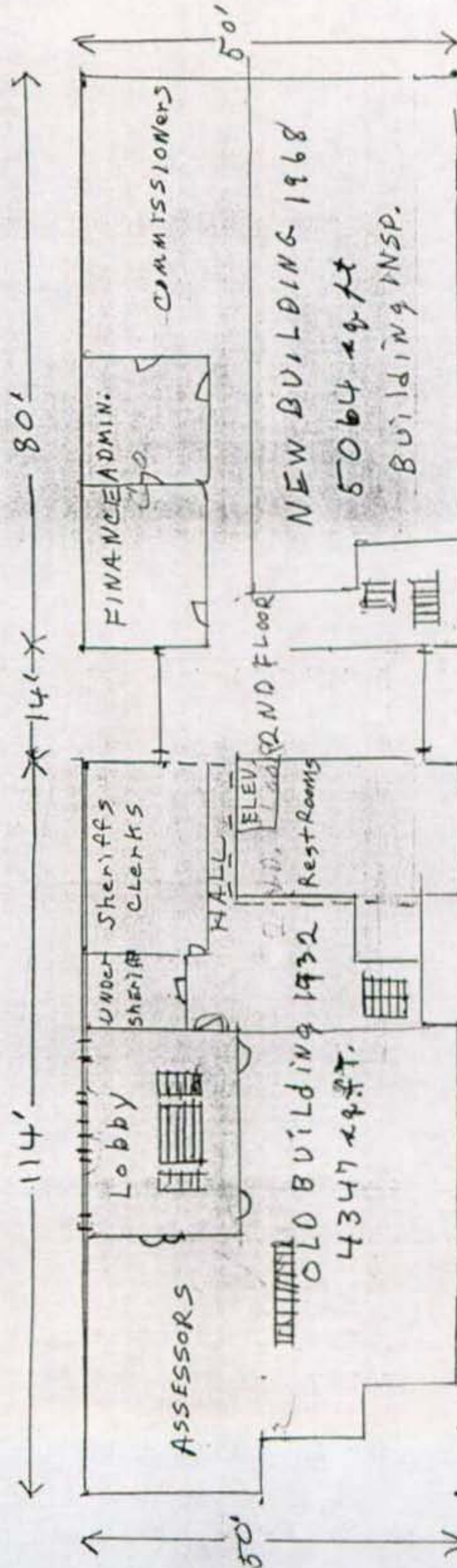
STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Section Number 13 Page 4

Floor plan - 2nd floor

CRESTONE AVE



Chaffee County
Court House
4-1996

3 R.D. ST.

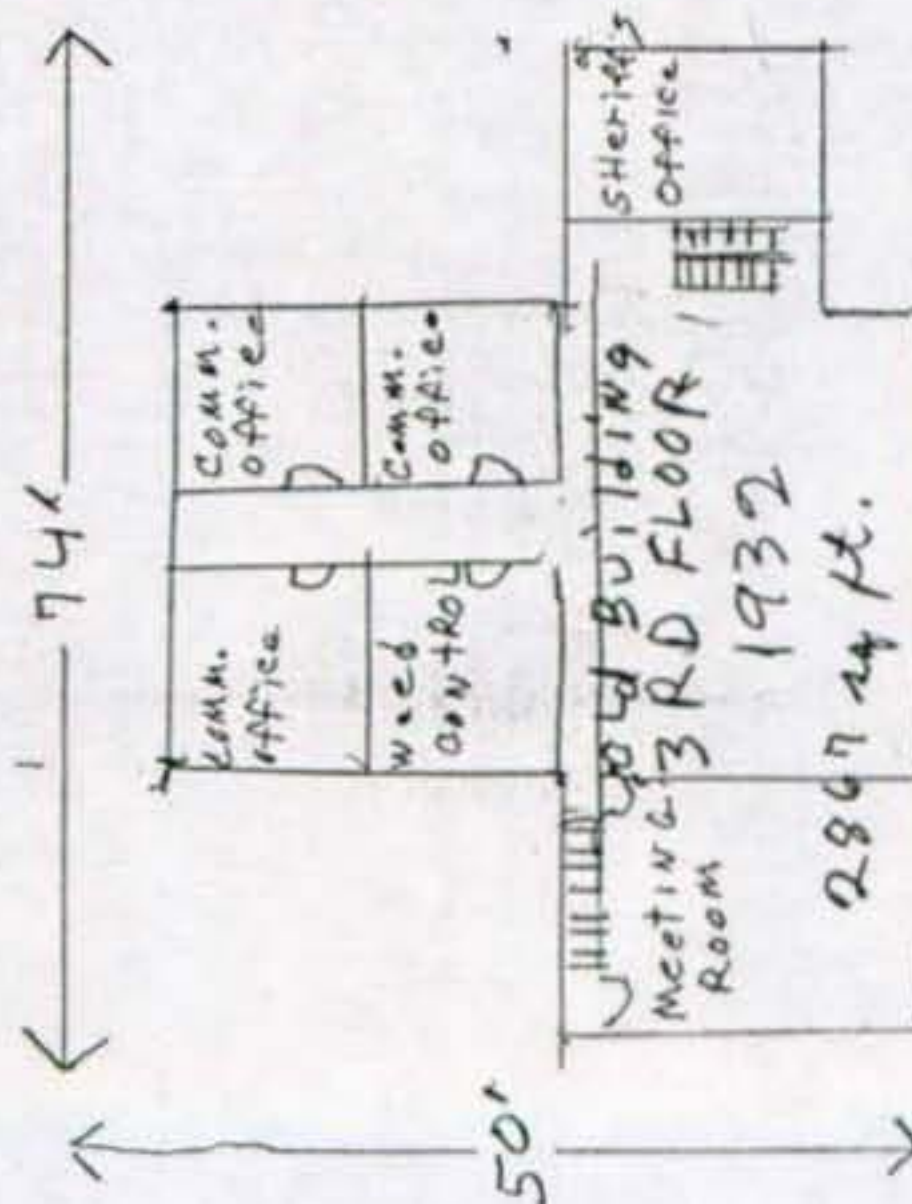
STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Section Number 13 Page 5

Floor plan - 3rd floor (original building)

CRESTONE AVE.



3 RD. ST.

Chaffee County
Court House
4-1996

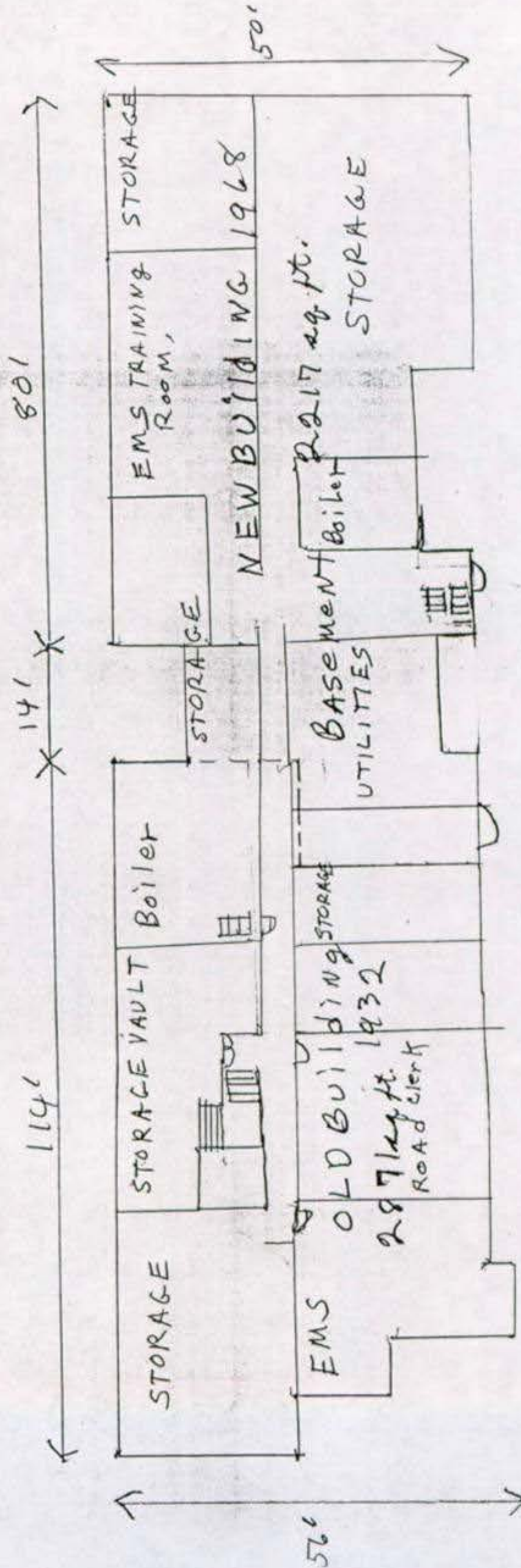
STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Section Number 13 Page 6

Floor plan - basement

CRESTONE AVE.



Chaffee County
COURT HOUSE.
4-1990

3 RD. ST.

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Section Number 16 Page 7

SIGNIFICANCE

The Chaffee County Courthouse is eligible for listing in the State Register under criterion C for Architecture. The building is a good example of Art Deco and is one of a few Art Deco-styled buildings designed by the prominent architect Walter DeMordaunt. The courthouse is the only Art Deco building in Salida and a search of the OAHP database indicates that no other Art Deco structures in Chaffee County have been identified to date. Adding to this building's significance is its well-preserved historic interior.

The 1925 *Exposition des Arts Decoratifs* in Paris gave rise to the style's popularity. Art Deco designs combine rectilinear massing, stylized ornament and polychromatic effects. The 1932 courthouse embodies the distinctive characteristics of Art Deco as seen in its vertical feeling, stepped back massing, vertical bands of windows with decorative spandrels, the use of the sunrise with floriated patterns, and the stepped frontispiece.

Walter DeMordaunt was the architect for the building. Pueblo city directories provide information regarding his professional career. He appeared as a draftsman in the 1923 directory and two years later was listed as a draftsman with the prominent Pueblo firm of W. W. Stickney. He first appeared as an architect in the 1927 city directory. He maintained an office in the Thatcher Building up until his death in April 1961. On occasion, notably from 1936-37 and 1943-48, DeMordaunt was the only Pueblo architect listed in the classified business section of the directory.

DeMordaunt's Pueblo buildings include the Star Journal Model Home (1926), an English/Norman cottage; the McClelland Orphanage (1935), a Colonial Revival building; and the Y.W.C.A. (1935) in the Mediterranean style. All three buildings are listed in the National Register. The Railway Savings (1928) on West 5th Street was an Art Deco design by DeMordaunt, however the building underwent a 1964 front addition that obscured much of the Deco elements.

DeMordaunt was also the architect for the Lincoln School in La Junta and the main post office in Lamar. According to his obituary in the Denver Post, he also designed several buildings at the Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo, a women's dormitory at the University of Colorado, and the Maxwell Hospital and Hotel in Lamar.

It should also be noted that the 1968 addition is a very early example of design compatibility. This addition, with a recessed glass connection that clearly differentiates the new from the old, did not destroy any historic materials and was compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features of the historic building. An addition designed in such a way was very innovative for 1968, as the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Historic Preservation Projects were not written until 1976.

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Section Number 16 Page 8

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Salida was founded by the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in 1880, the same year the state legislature created Chaffee County out of Lake County. The new county had its seat and court in Granite, but late in 1880, the voters decided to award the permanent county seat to Buena Vista. In 1928, voters decided to move the county seat to Salida. At the time, there was no building to house county officials in Salida. The Ray Lines American Legion Post 64 undertook the project to remedy the situation. In October 1929, after considering several sites, the commissioners agreed that the new structure be located "on the mesa" and DeMordaunt's revised plans were accepted in January 1931. In February, construction bids were announced and six percent bonds were issued "in an amount not to exceed \$100,000."

Bidders were happy during those depression days to offer reduced or free services, and above average quality materials in order to obtain work contracts. Stone for floors and inside trim was purchased at cost from the travertine quarry near Wellsville, east of Salida. E. W. Tucker of Salida received the \$8,340 plumbing and heating contract. Tucker promised materials of higher grade than the specs required and he offered to service his work free for one year. Excavation work went to W. T. Mitchell, who was authorized to pay \$7 a day for men with teams and \$3.50 per day for laborers. Borrowing tools and machinery from the county "where necessary," Mike and Francis DeLuca with their teams carved out the building's basement. Yellow bricks, made in Colorado Springs, were hauled from the D&RG spur on Second Street to the courthouse site by wagon teams. Iron City Electric Co. of Pueblo did the electrical work with the stipulation that Salida men do the work and that certain fixtures would be installed without charge.

As the building neared completion, some of the county office equipment was moved from Buena Vista. District court held its first sessions in the building on January 18 and 25, 1932. It was several weeks later before other county offices were occupied. The last to be finished was the sheriff's office and jail in June 1932. The Ray Lines Post conveyed the building to the county after a 25-year lease period, during which the county agreed to pay \$670 per month.

(ed. HLW)

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Section Number 17 Page 9

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

Blumensen, John J.-G. Identifying American Architecture. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977.

Dixon, Dick. "Chaffee County Courthouse, Salida, Colorado," in A History of Chaffee County, pp. 46-47. Compiled and Edited by June Shaputis and Suzanne Kelly. Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1982.

Records

American Legion minutes (1930-32)

Chaffee County Courthouse Records. Book 220, page 198 (warranty deed dated May 5, 1993)

Newspapers

Denver Post. 9 April 1962, p.31.

Mountain Mail. (1930-32)

Directories

Colorado State Business Directory

Pueblo City Directory

Other

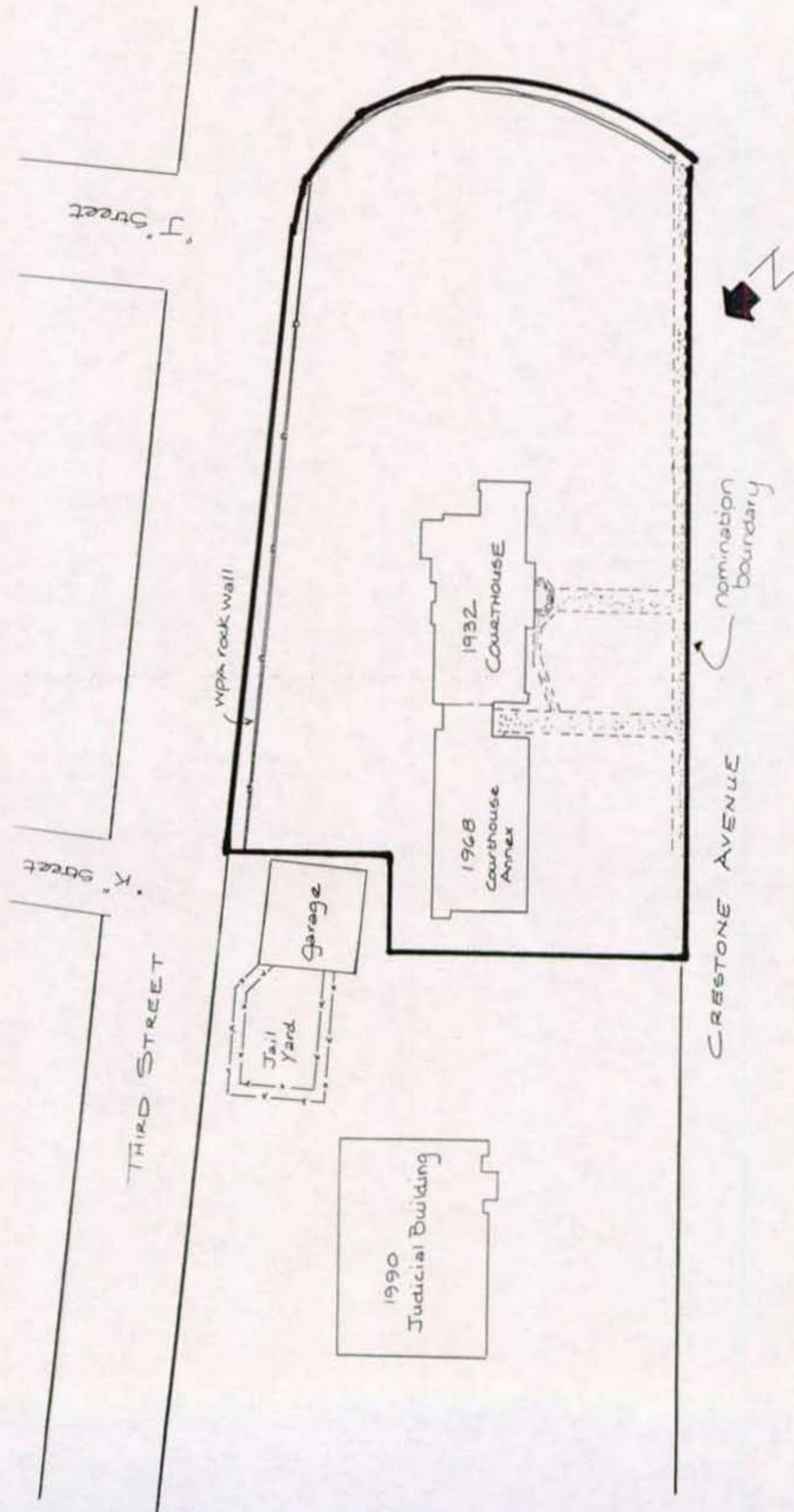
Trujillo, Fran. National Register Nomination for McClelland Orphanage, 1991.

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Section Number _____ Page 10

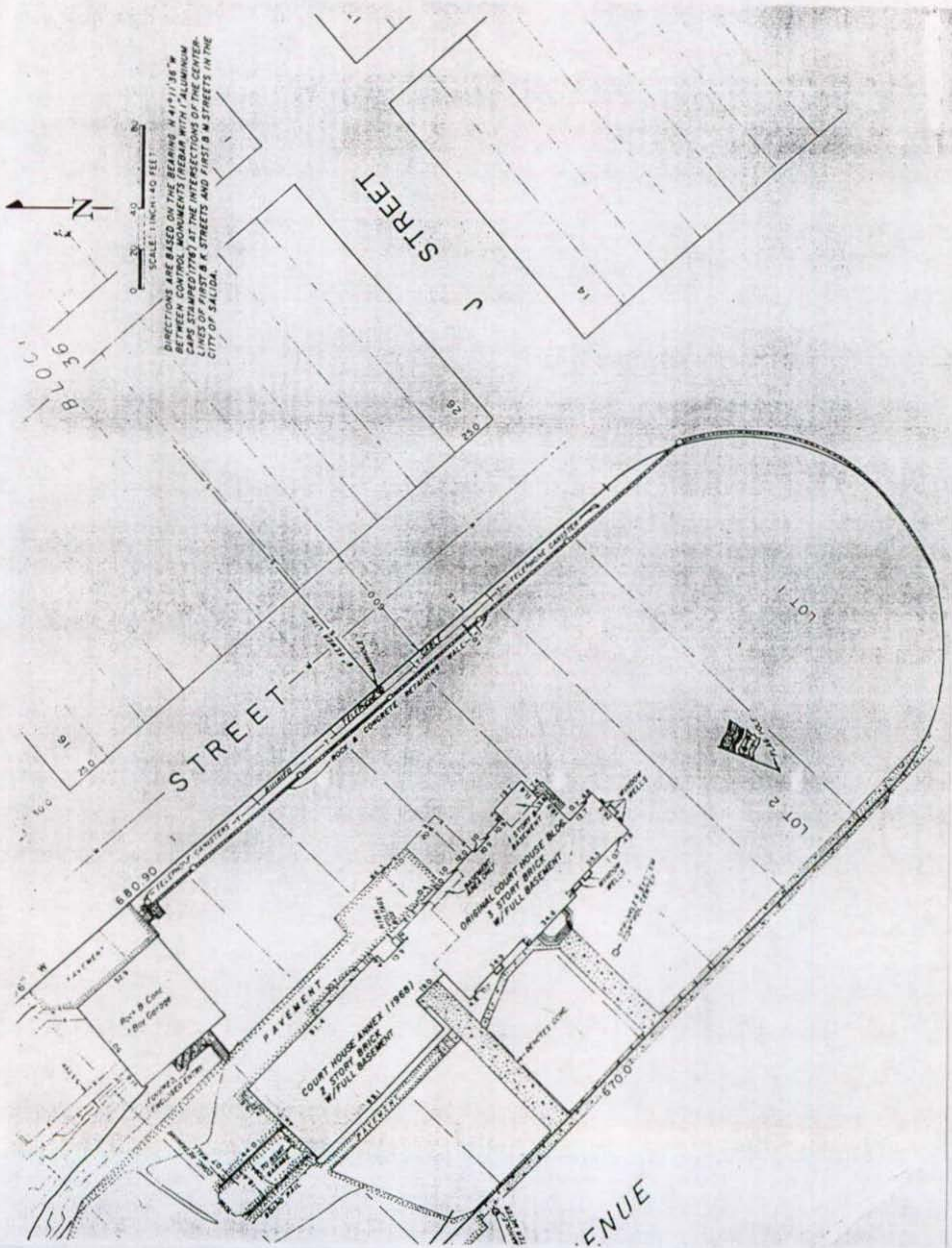
sketch map



STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

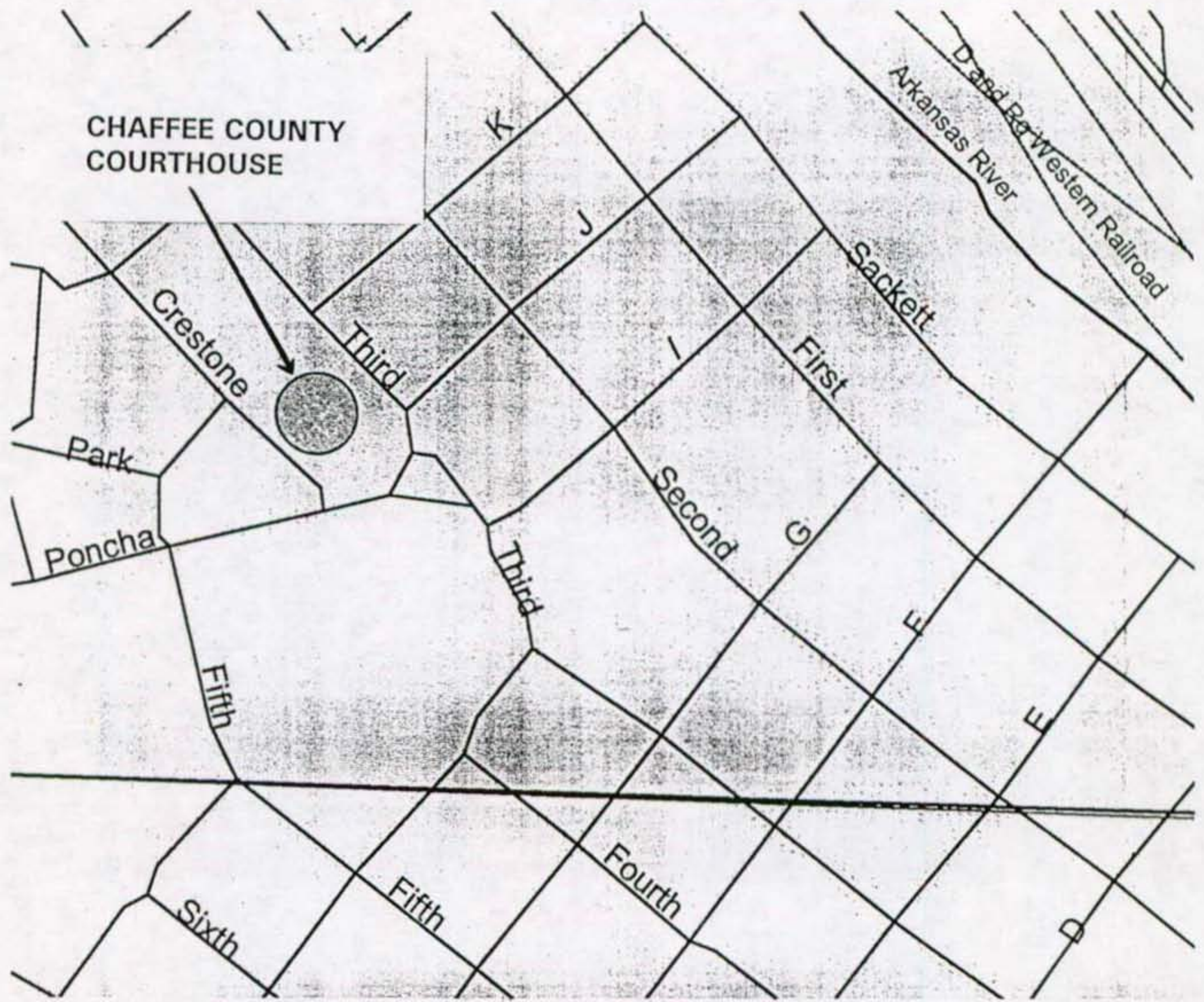
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STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

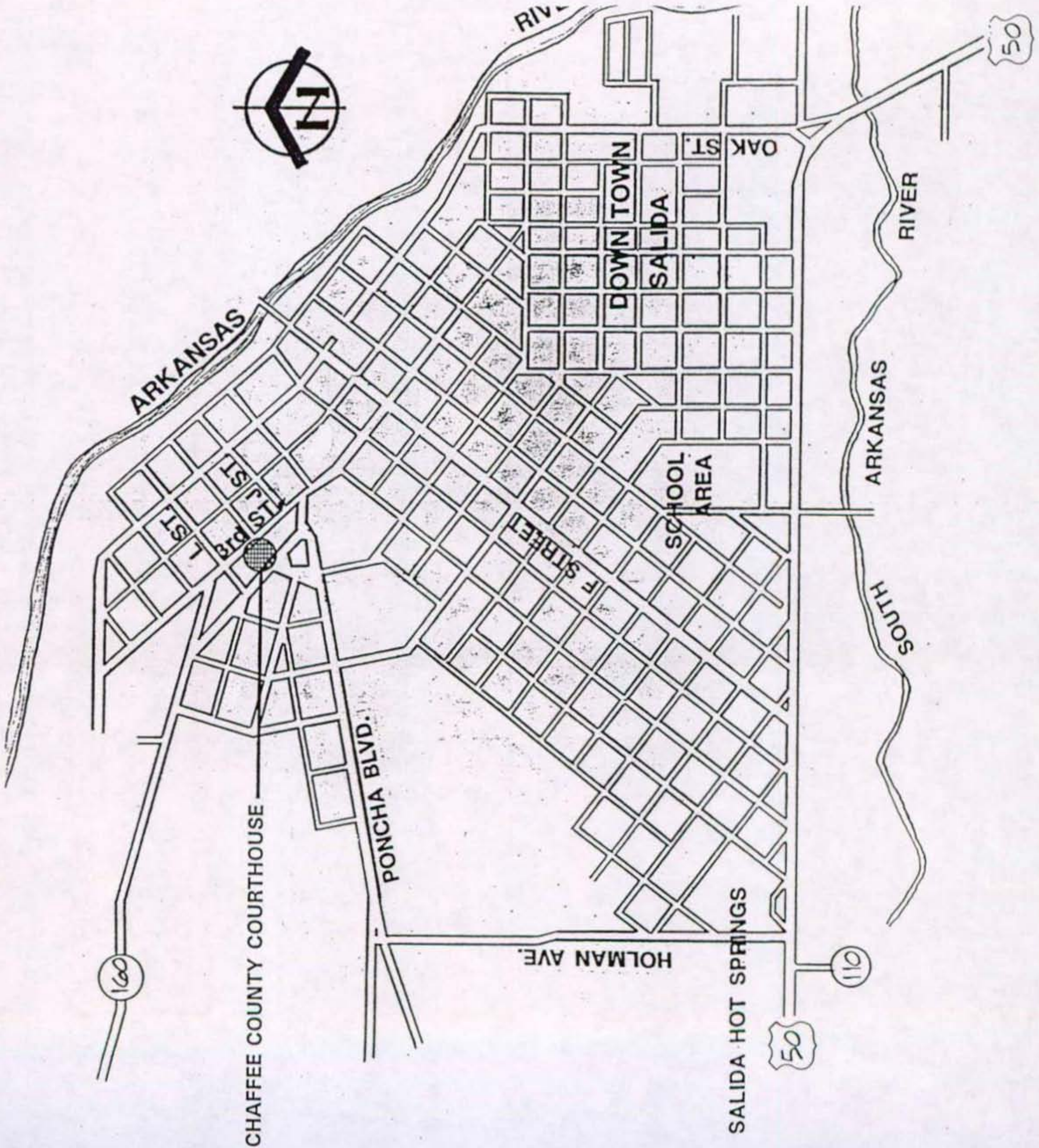
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STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Section Number _____ Page 13

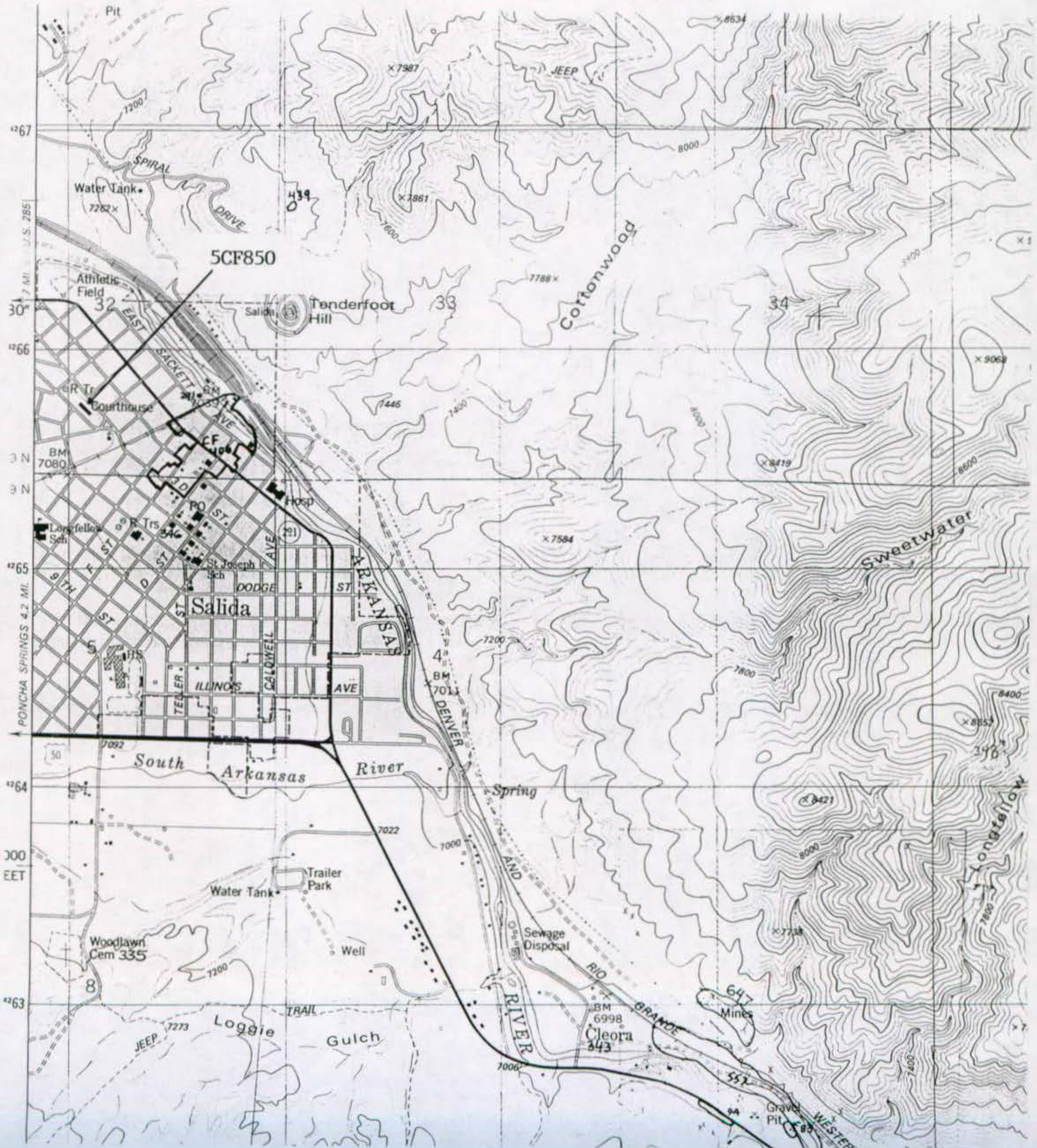


STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name CHAFFEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Section Number _____ Page 14

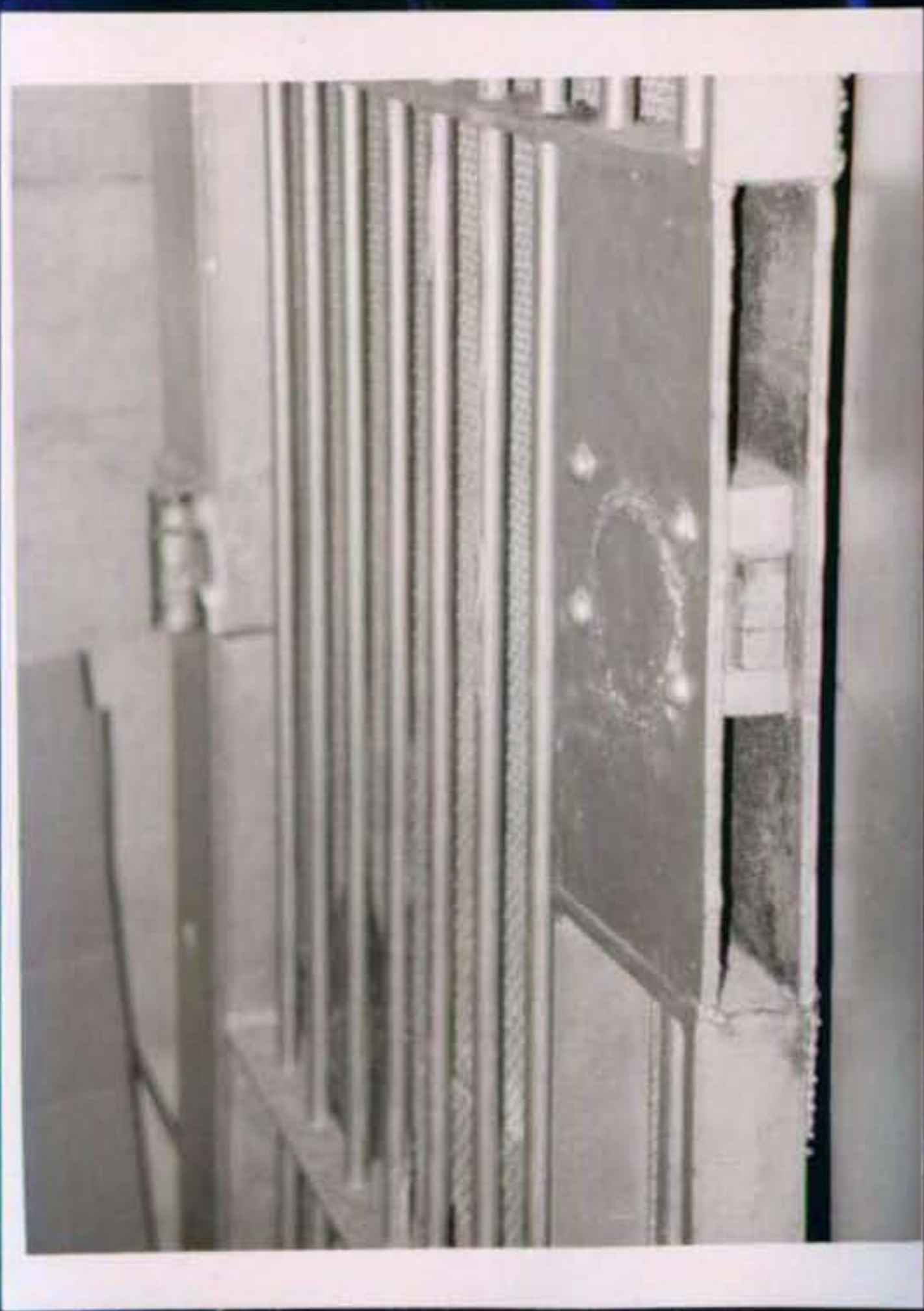
U.S.G.S. map - Salida East Quad



Jail Window Basement
EAST CORNER
1996



1996



BACK Old + New
1996



1996



South end of Original Building
1986



1996





1996





1996





1996



FRONT 1996



Lobby 1ST FLOOR
1996

TO HONOR
THE WOLFEWAIN
OF
CHARLES COUNTY
MOUNTAIN SHAWANO CHAPTER
D.A.R.



VAULT-OLD Building
1996



1996



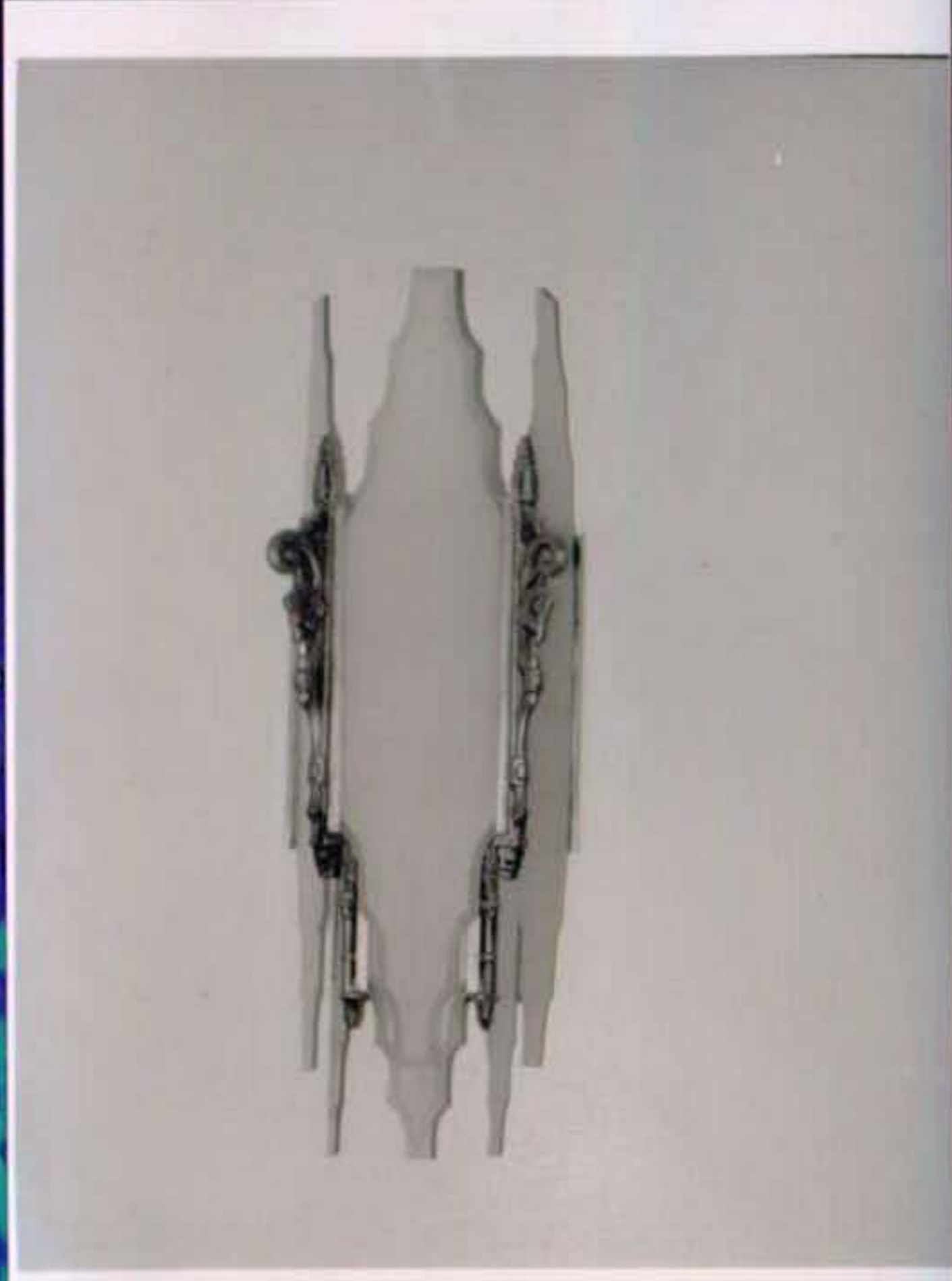
North end of 1968
Annex
1996



Rear elevation of
1968 Annex
1996



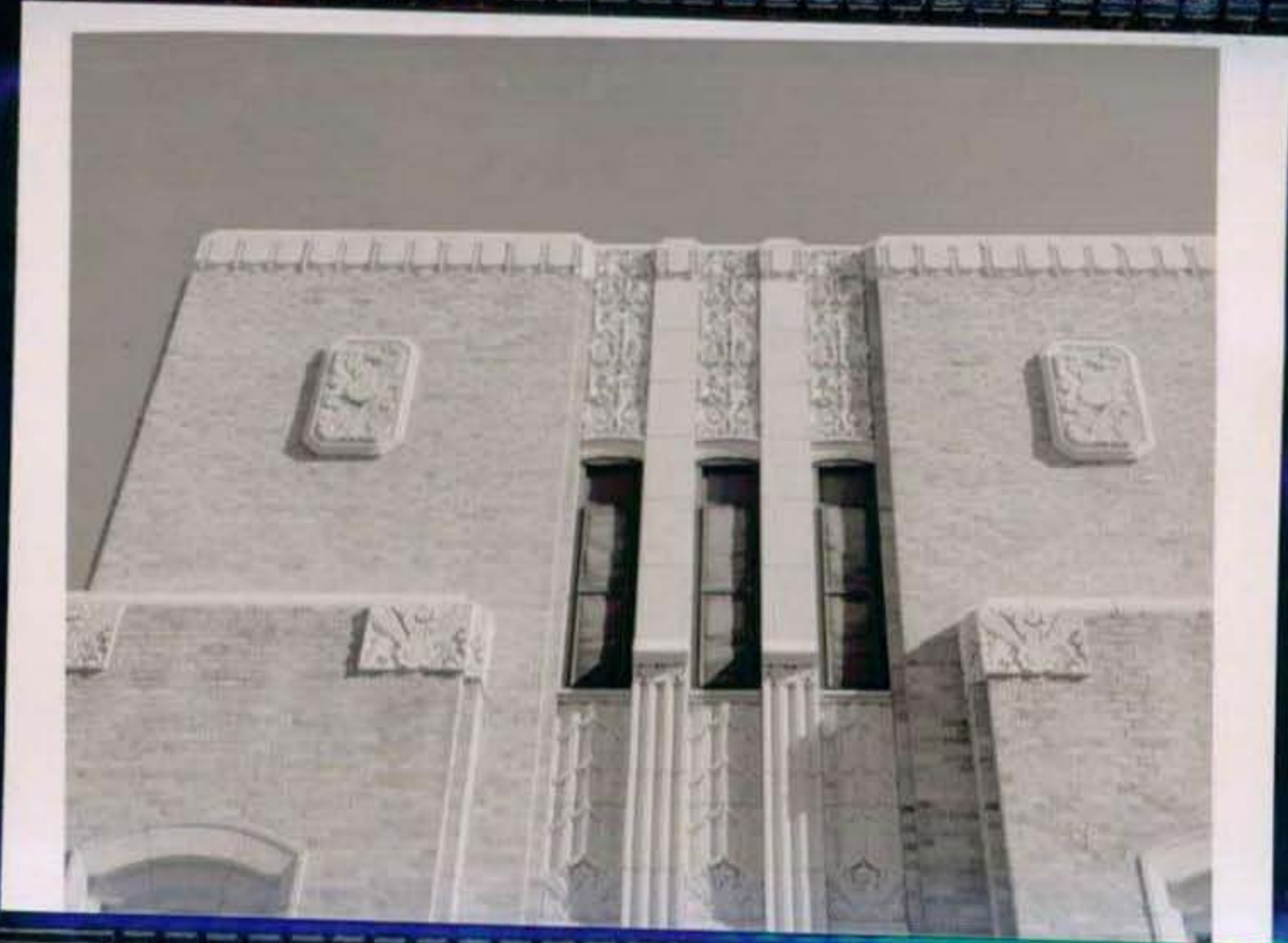
1996



Rear elevation of
Original Buildings
1996



1996



1996



1996



1996



1996



