### United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

# 1. Name

histor	ic		Salida	Downtown	h Historio	c Distri	ct		
and/o	r common						_		
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3.	Clas	ssific	ation						
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street	& number	r							
city, t	own				vicinity of		state		
5.	Loc	ation	of Leg	al De	scripti	on			
	house, reg & number	istry of de	eds, etc. Ch	affee C	ounty Cou	rthouse			
city, t		alida					state	Colorado	)
6.	Rep	rese	ntation	in Ex	isting	Survey	ys		
title	FCRC	Survey	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		has this pro	operty been d	etermined el	egible? y	es _x_ no
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depos	sitory for s	urvey reco	ords Colora	ado His	torical S	ociety	1300 Br	roadway	
city, t	own Den	ver	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		·		state	Colorado	

# 7. Description

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

The city of Salida is located in the southern end of the Upper Arkansas River Valley, just north of the junction of the Arkansas River and its tributary, the South Arkansas River. The valley is framed by the rugged Arkansas Hills to the east, and the Sawatch and Sangre de Cristo mountain ranges to the west. The Arkansas River winds its way through the north end of Salida, and provides a natural boundary between the commercial district and the railroad yards.

Salida's commercial structures, the majority of which line F Street, the community's main business thoroughfare, were built between 1883 and 1930. Primarily two stories, these buildings are constructed of brick, although the original storefront areas, a number of which have been significantly altered, display a variety of surfaces. Architectural styles represented in the district include late 19th and early 20th century examples, several exhibiting Romanesque elements, one featuring elements of the Art Moderne style, and several stamped metal facades. The majority are, however, late 19th century commercial buildings.

Several of the structures, particularly the Twitchell Building, and commercial structures at 137 East First and in the 100 block of East Sackett Street, feature intact, late 19th century storefronts with recessed entrances, flanking display windows, kickplates, transoms, and iron columns supporting a continuous lintel separating the upper floor from the storefront area. The buildings' upper stories, which are also largely intact throughout the district, provide a unifying pattern of cornice, window and storefront alignment. Richly decorated cornices with cresting, brackets, and brick corbelling; stone lintels and sills; and detailing including metal cornices and window caps distinguish many of the structures, and add to the architectural character of the city's commercial district.

Two of the structures located in the commercial district feature fine examples of stamped metal facades which represent a significant era in the history of commercial architecture. According to one source, "stamped sheet iron and steel commercial facades, cornices, and components are found on Main Streets in every state in the United States. The material achieved widespread popularity from the 1880's into the 1910's, part of a national trend toward industrialized building technology and mass-produced ornament " (<u>APT</u> Conference Abstracts, 1979). The building at 132 East First Street, built between 1898 and 1904, features a stamped metal facade produced by Mesker Brothers of St. Louis, one of two national companies which produced entire metal facades. The producer of the metal facade at 131 East First Street could not be identified.

The following is a list of the more important structures located in the Salida Commercial District: (see corresponding number on map)

1. <u>Denver & Rio Grande Depot</u>, an example of the Art Moderne style, was built around 1930. The structure reflects Salida's development as a railroad center, and is one of the few remaining structures that represent this important period in Salida's history. The depot is contructed of brick and is a simplified Art Moderne structure with rounded corners, flat roofs, and relatively smooth wall surfaces.

# 8. Significance

1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art C commerce communications		Iandscape architecture Iaw Iiterature Iiterature Iitary IIIItary IIIII IIIII IIIIII IIIIII IIIIIII IIIII	<ul> <li>religion</li> <li>science</li> <li>sculpture</li> <li>social/</li> <li>humanitarian</li> <li>theater</li> <li>transportation</li> <li>other (specify)</li> </ul>
Specific dates	1880-1930	Builder/Architect	n/a	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Salida Downtown Historic District offers a significant example of turn-of-the century commercial architecture and represents Salida's growth as a major railroad center. Architecturally, the structures located in the district form a distinct, yet cohesive entity within the community, and have for the most part maintained their integrity. Historically, the commercial district became an important distribution center for the neighboring communities and mining districts as well as a division point for six branches of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. The period of significance dates from Salida's establishment as a railroad division point in 1880 until the railroad decline around 1930.

In the spring of 1880, following the D & RG victory in the "Royal Gorge War," the city of South Arkansas was established as a division point for the line between Pueblo and the mining districts. Genral William J. Palmer had built his railroad along a route originally surveyed by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe (AT & SF) Railroad. As was his custom, Palmer built his towns on sites owned by the D & RG rather in existing communities where local land speculators would make a profit from increased land values. Thus he bypassed the town of Cleora, organized in 1878 by the AT & SF, and chose instead a location one mile north for his division point.

In April 1880, former Territorial Governor and D & RG Board member Alexander C. Hunt supervised the surveying of the land he had purchased from local homesteaders a year earlier. The platted area extended from Front Street (now Sackett) to Fifth Street, and from D Street to L Street. The grid patterned townsite, featuring wide streets and full lots measuring 25 x 150 feet, paralleled the Arkansas River.

South Arkansas became known as Salida almost immediately, and proved to be an excellent location. Not only was the town located near abundant iron ore, copper, and fire clay deposits as well as the Chalk, Monarch, and Cottonwood mining districts, it also featured a direct connection to the Gunnison mining district by way of Barlow and Sanderson's regularly scheduled stage line. Thus, as the railroad continued to advance into the mining regions, the small community of Salida was attracting businessmen, merchants, and miners interested in the area's potential.

The railroad arrived in Salida on May 1, 1880 and soon after a temporary depot was set up in a box car. A permanent depot, constructed of stone guarried near Nathrop, and a roundhouse were completed by the end of 1880 on the north bank of the river. The present depot was built near the same site around 1930. In 1882, a hospital was erected by the railroad, and a year later the famed Monte Cristo Hotel opened for business. The railroad reached Leadville in August of 1880 and in another twelve months, tapped the Gunnison trade via Otto Mears' Marshall Pass Toll Road.

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NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

### **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Exp. 10-31-84

OMB NO. 1024-0018

received date:entered

Philip A. Bernick

c/o Jeanne Foster

147 W. 3rd Street

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Inventory			
Continuation sheet	Salida Downtov Historic Distu	14 In	4 <b>P</b> age 2
	Chaffee County	7, CO	
V.A. Veltri & Robe 1447 G Street Salida, CO 81201		Sam Ferraro; Arthur Ferraro Robert Ferraro 1347 G St. Salida, CO 81201	H M T 440 Poncha Blvd. Salida, CO 81201
William & Robert C P.O. Box 523 Salida, CO -81201		Burgess P. Greisenbeck 137 East 1st St. Salida, CO 81201	Edward & Estella Bradbury J 343 Teller Salida, CO 81201
Joyce Wentz 123 G Street Salida, CO 81201		Robert R. Pasquale 143 North F Street Salida, CO 81201	Floyd & Elsie Stallsworth P.O. Box 426 Salida, CO 81201
Public Service Co. P.O. Box 968 Salida, CO 81201	of Colo.	Jan & Laverne Sebastian 132½ W. 1st St. Salida, CO 81201	Don & Esther Craig 148 E. 1st St. Salida, CO 81201
Robert B. & Ruth E P.O. Box 769 Salida, CO 81201	Biglow	Ralph H. Taylor P.O. Box 599 Haiku, HI 96708	Mildred & Charles Zingone Genevive Naples 427 lst. Street Salida, CO 81201
Robert G. & Virgir P.O. Box 531 Salida, CO 81201	nia Biglow	Jack & Geraldine Cady 139 F St. Salida, CO 81201	Michael L. Nicoletti 3062 W. 41st St. Denver, CO 80211
Harold R. Koster, P.O. Box 868 Salida, CO 81201	Inc.	Peter & Sharon Salerno DBA Salerno's Standard 135 E. 2nd St. Salida, CO 81201	Michael A. Welch P.O. Box 254 Salida, CO 81201

Richard D. & Bobbi Irwin Jr. 148 North F Street Salida, CO 81201

,

Marvin & Lucille Danhauer 337 Ouray Salida, CO 81201

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

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Continuation sheet	Salida Downtown Historic District	Item number	4	Page 3
<u> </u>	Chaffee County, CO			

David R. Kimmett c/o Janet Hudson 127 East 1st Salida, CO 81201

Dwaine & Virginia Wyatt 647 H St. Salida, CO 81201

Pete & Joan Barone 210 Poncha Blvd. Salida, CO 81201

Shivano Corporation P.O. Box 5162 Denver, CO 80217

James & Wanda Treat 305 G St. Salida, CO 81201

Shirley E. Mickel 7740 CR 151 Salida, CO 81201

Salida Fire Department 124 E. St. Salida, CO 81201

Gregory B. Cole 1109 Colorado Ave. Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 City of Salida c/o Tony Gentile l24 E St. Salida, CO 81201

> Harvey C. Everett 301 Nichols Ave. Salida, CO 81201

Jerry & Debra Lowry 133 E. 2nd Salida, CO 81201

Irene McBride & Anna Bremer 121 E St. Salida, CO 81201

Thomas C. Revelle c/o John F. Plum 6055 CR 178 Salida, CO 81201

Janet G. Hudson 224 East 1st Salida, CO 81201

Paul A. Martin 214 East 1st Salida, CO 81201

John & Donna Troutman 940 E St. Salida, CO 81201 Jack Watkins P.O. Box 97 Salida, CO 81201

Catherine & Wayne Hillegas 13555 CR 191 Salida, CO 81201

Alonzo F. Quintana 220 North F St. Salida, CO 81201

Tom & Patricia Bainbridge 204 North F St. Salida, CO 81201

Fib-Ark Boat Races, Inc. P.O. Box 762 Salida, CO 81201

Rapport Associates Box 707 Salida, CO 81201

Margery Disman Anson Beatrice Disman Stone 3867 Washington Street San Francisco, CA 94418

Elaine Spencer Marr Attorney at Law 511 East Palace Ave. Santa Fe, NM 87501

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet	Salida Downtown Historic District	Item number	4	Page 4
	Chaffee County, CO		·	
Marilyn Laverty 123 North F St. Salida, CO 812	870	no H. Bevington )5 CR 224 lida, CO 81201		Oddfellows Salida Lodge #54 113½ East 1st St. Salida, CO 81201
Pete Perri P.O. Box 264 Salida, CO 812	92	ton & Gerda Kolbeck 2 D St lida, CO 81201		Robert & Barbara Kurtz 128 Palmer Salida, CO 81201
Charles & Teres 421 G St. Salida, CO 812	21	ck Cosby 5 West 1st 1ida, CO 81201		
Raymond G. Thon 101 Poncha Blvd Salida, CO 812	. 56	dith Cisney 6 W. Easter Place ttleton, CO 80120		Volker & Shirley Streicek P.O. Box 67 Salida, CO 81201
Angela Mehos 10015 CR 120 Salida, CO 812	Ρ.	rald Warmbir O. Box 106 non City, CO 81242		Francis & Bonnie-Jean Roder 5409 East Calypso Circle Mesa, AZ 85206
Arlin & Marjori P.O. Box 846 Salida, CO 812			-	Robert D. Staab 102 North F Street Salida, CO 81201
niamin & Joseph	ine Maestas Ma t P.	rlyn & Marjorie Swift O. Box 160		Ronald R. Munson 106 North F St.

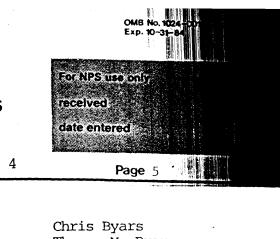
OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84 NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

#### **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

Salida Downtown

Historic District Chaffee County, CO

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Attn: Les Alway 148 East 2nd Salida, CO 81201

Continuation sheet

B.P.O.E. #808

Mon-Ark Shrine Club c/o Gene Broaddus Sackett Ave. Salida, CO 81201 June Abel & Floyd McClane 115 North E St. Salida, CO 81201

Richard C. McDonald

Salida, CO 81201

1128 H St.

Item number

Raimon Cook; Diane Cook William Cook; Robert Cook

P.O. Box 823 Salida, CO 81201

Dorothy M. Cook; Cheryl McCoy; Donna Vaughn P.O. Box 823 Salida, CO 81201

Ronald & Loretta Conway 136 North F St.' Salida, CO 81201

Merle & Mary Baranczyk P.O. Box 111 Poncha Springs, CO 81242

Mr. Ben Groy 1048 F Street Salida, CO 81201 Frank & Adeline Stancati 905 H St. Salida, CO 81201

Mary Kathryn Stewart P.O. Box 925 Salida, CO 81201

Gerry W. Imig P.O. Box 1006 Salida, CO 81201

John G. Mehos 10015 CR 120 Salida, CO 81201

Thomas & Robert Nevens c/o Thomas D. Nevens 2973 S. Milwakee Circle Denver, CO 80210 Thomas M. Byars c/o Chris Byars P.O. Box 794 Salida, CO 81201

Thomas M. Byars Laurabell Bridges c/o Chris Byars P.O. Box 94 Salida, CO 81201

Richard & Janet Murphy P.O. Box 208 Salida, CO 81201

Vicki McCormick & Kathy Sharp 7706 Hwy. 50 Salida, CO 81201

Charles A. Upp 748 F St. Salida, CO 81201

Christopher & Paula Schirme: 128 E. 1st St. Salida, CO 81201

### United States Department of the Interior **National Park Service**

Salida Downtown

## **National Register of Historic Places Inventory**—Nomination Form

For NPS	use ei	aly	
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Cor	ntinuation sheet	Historic Dist	rict	Item numbe	r 7	Page 2
2.	F Street Br	idge, built in	1906, is a	a double span	concrete	bridge which crosses
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the Arkansas River and links Salida's commercial district to the railroad yard. It was designed by Fred Bullen.

3. Manhattan Hotel, known locally as the FiBark Building, was built in 1901 and is one of the finest examples of turn of the century commercial architecture in Salida. Distinguished by cut stone stringcourses, pilasters separating the bays and stone crenelation at the roofline. Large rose windows and decorative brickwork, including an interesting latticework pattern provide additional detailing. The building is listed in the National Register.

4. A. T. Henry Building, located at the corner of F and First, was built in 1886 and housed the Chaffee County Bank. The building features a bracketed cornice, corner entrance topped by triangular shaped roof pediment framing a sunburst design, and an intact, late 19th century storefront.

5. Palace Hotel, built by Delacy Ramsey and completed in 1909, is one of several hotels located near the railroad depot, attesting to the importance of the railroad on Salida's commercial district. This imposing three-story brick structure with a two-story corner section also housed a restaurant and commercial space.

Twitchell Building, built in 1890, is an intact example of late 19th century commercial 6. architecture. Relatively unadorned, the structure features a large display area with windows separated by iron posts, wooden kickplates, and a recessed and corner entrance. The building is associated with N.B. Twitchell who built the structure and who was considered the pioneer real estate man in town.

7. Knights of Pythias Building, occupying a corner location at F Street, and Second, is a fine two-story commercial building constructed of brick with rough cut stone accents. Stone piers at the first floor windows extend around the corner entrance and support a simple cornice with a shallow pediment at the entrance. Above, double hung windows with a continuous stone sill course has a continuous stone transom bar, with fixed transoms, and a continuous stone lintel course, which supports a deep entablature. The frieze space of the Colonial Revival cornice is ornamental with swags and festoons. At the corner, within the entablature is a large clock with a pilastered surround. The First National Bank occupied this structure from the time it was built in 1895 until 1934.

8. Salida Elks Lodge, built in 1910, is a two-story brick building, characterized by a central entrance highlighted by a balustraded porch. Above the porch is a round-headed bay partially filled with stained glass.

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## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

	Salida Downtown			
Continuation sheet	Historic District	Item number	7	Page 3

Chaffee County, CO

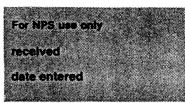
9. <u>Riverside Park</u>, stretching from North F Street east along the banks of the Arkansas River to D Street, was originally the property of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. It has been set aside by the city of Salida for the use of the citizens.

The district, containing a total of 111 buildings, offers a significant example of turn-of-the century commercial architecture and represents Salida's growth as a major railroad center. The district structures, which form a distinct, yet cohesive entity within the community, have generally maintained their integrity with major alterations occurring on some of the lower facades. Of the 111 buildings in the district, 79 are listed as contributing to the significance of the historic district. See the district map for more information.

Below is a list of contributing structures in the district:

<u>Site #</u>	Building Name	Address	Constr. Date
5CF212	Denver & Rio Grande Depot		c.1930
5CF213	Manhatten Hotel	228 North F	1901
5CF214	Jug Liquors	220 North F	c.1900
5CF216	Palace Hotel	204 North F	1904-09
5CF298	F Street Bridge	North end of F	1906
5CF218	Neil's Cafe	140 North F	c.1900
-	Riverside Park	North end of F	-
-	Brick Garage	100 Bk. North G	c.1900
5CF219	Pinecone Antiques	136 North F	c.1883
5CF220	American Selco, Inc.	128 North F	1890-93
5CF273	Victoria Tavern	143 North F	1898-1904
5CF274	Park Place Restaurant	113 E. Sackett	1890-93
-	Alley structure	Between E.Sackett	
-	Alley structure	Between E.Sackett	
-	Red Brick Boarding House	100 Bk. E. Sackett	-
-	Lewis-Glenn Funeral Home	203 E. Sackett	-
-	Barber Shop	Triangular lot, Fi	rst & G 🛛 =
5CF282	Downtown Auto Body	144 W. First	1898-1904
5CF297	Antiques (Your Furniture)	138 W. First	1904-08
5CF281	Union Block (west section)	134 W. First	1886-90
5 <b>C</b> F280	Union Block (Bargain Shop)	132 W. First	1886-90
5 <b>C</b> F279	Salida Sweet Shop	130 W. First	1886-90
5 <b>C</b> F276	Commercial Building	110 W. First	1898-1904
50F275	Commercial Building	135 North F	1914-1929
5CF225	A. T. Henry Building	102-104 North F	1886
5CF221	Commercial Building	122 North F	<b>c.1</b> 883
5 <b>C</b> F272	Capricorn Liquors	123 North F	1886-90

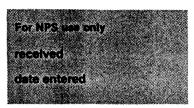
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	Chaffee County, CO			
	sharree county, co			
5CF27:			North F	1886-90
5CF27	D Band Box Clear	ners - 119	North F	1890-93
-	Band Box Laund	iry 117	North F	1890-93
50F26	3 PT's Polish Co	orner 109	North F	1886-90
5CF262	2 Twitchell Buil	lding 101	North F	1890
5CF269	9 Master Printer	rs 114	E First	1886-90
50F26	7 Misty Mountair	n Music 132	E. First	1898-19
5CF260	Zenith T.V.	134	E. First	1886-18
-	Pink Stucco Re		Bk. E	
-	Brick Duplex	200	Bk. E. First	
5CF306			E. First	1898-19
-	White Brick Ra		Bk. E. First	-
-	Residence		Bk. E. Second	_
5CF229				1886-90
5CF227			-132 F	1890
50F232				1904-09
5CF23				1902
5CF231			F	1898-19
5CF25		<b>•</b>		1895
5 <b>C</b> F252				1898-19
50F251		219	F	1904
5CF250				1898-19
5CF249		229	- F	1886-90
5CF248		Pizza 233		1886-90
5CF247			F	1914-19
-	Brick Duplex		Bk. E	-
-	Brick Residence		Bk. E. First	· _
50F290			st & G	1898-19
5CF287				1898-19
	Kolbeck's Gas			-
5CF28				1909-19
5CF286			W. First	1909-19
50F261				1887
5CF260		115		1883
5CF241			E. First	1887
5CF242			Bk. E. First	1886-88
5CF301			E. First	1893-98
5CF302			E. First	1886-90
5CF303			E. First	1883-86
5 <b>C</b> F30				1914-29
5CF256				1886-90
5 <b>C</b> F257				1886-90
5CF25	-			1886-90
5CF29	5 Elks Lodge	148	E. Second	1910

(continued)

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-	Calible Desertant				
Continuation sheet	Salida Downtown	Item number	7	Page 5	
	Historic District				
	Chaffee County, CO				
5CF23				E. Second	1898-1904
5CF23			300 I		1909-1914
-		te House		Bk. E	-
-	Residenc			Bk. E	-
5CF23			312 F		1909-1914
5CF24		Datsun (east half			1909-1914
5CF24	5 Economy	Datsun (west half	)139 N	V. Third	1904-1914
Below is a	a list of non-con	tributing structu	res ir	the district.	
					·
5CF21	5 Palace R	estaurant	216 N	lorth F	c.1900
50F29		partments	120 h	. Sackett	1904-09
50F30		Shrine Temple		Bk. W. Sackett	1898-190
5CF21'	7 Western	Armaments		lorth F	c.1900
-		t Building	100 E	3k. W. Sackett	-
5CF284		ar (west half)	146 W	I. First	c.1909
5 <b>C</b> F28		ar (east half)	146 h	I. First	c.1909
5CF22		al Structure	100 E	3k. North F	c.1900
50 F27		arber Shop		1. First	c,1900
5CF278				1. First	c.1900
50F22				lorth F	c.1900
50F222				3k. North F	c.1900
50F268				E. First	1973
50F264		uto Parts		. First	1890-93
-	Stucco D		100 E		-
-		esidence	100 E		<b>-</b>
-		ts Store		r E & First	-
	Residenc			3k. E. First	-
5CF228		lworth's,	134 F		c.1900
50F237		rth Motor Co.		Sk. F	c.1950
5CF238				Bk. E. Third	c.1950
	Gas Stat			r Third & E	-
•••	Gas Stat			k. E. Second	-
-		<u>Mail</u> Office		Sk. E. Second	-
5 <b>C</b> F259		rk Building		G Street	-
50F258		Valley Gifts	119 F 123 F		c.1883
)ر ع <sup>ر</sup> الر	City Hal		100 B		c.1883-86
5CF26		ire Dept.		ok. E. First	-
	Stucco R		100 B		c.1950
5CF296		Mental Health		Second	- 1960
50F254			147 F		c.1960 c.1890
<i>J</i> - <i>J</i>					0.1090

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The latter route, which ultimately became the D & RG's main line, terminated in Salt Lake City. Although a direct route to Denver eluded Salida, the community was the division point for six of the D & RG's branches, confirming Salida's position as a major railroad center.

There were three major periods of construction in Salida, the first from 1880 to 1883 and the result of rapid railroad expansion. The city that emerged focused on F Street which extended from the railroad yard on the north bank of the Arkansas River southward. Frame buildings, serving a variety of functions, particularly hotels, rooming houses, and saloons, lined the main thoroughfare and a number of side streets. Although these structures gave the appearance of permanence, fire, the enemy of frontier towns, denied the illusion. Major fires in 1886 and 1888 which changed the appearance of Salida's commercial district, resulted in the passage of an ordinance establishing the Salida Fire Blocks. The ordinance prohibited the erection of frame buildings within an area bounded by Front (Sackett) Street, Fourth Street, C Street, and H Street.

Following the fires and the passage of the ordinance, a second building boom occurred between 1886 and 1890. During this period, over half of the buildings located in the district were constructed. Typically, the corner structures are the largest and most imposing structures in the district and were built during this second period.

The third building boom occurred shortly after the second, from 1895 to 1904. During this period, a large number of the buildings which still stand on F Street were built. Included in this group of structures were several stamped metal storefronts one by the Mesker Brothers of St. Louis.

Prominent businessmen involved in Salida's growth included N.R. Twitchell, who was known as a pioneer realestate man in Salida, involved in many land transactions in the community. He built a corner structure at First and F Streets in 1890 which is still standing. Louis Wenz was an immigrant from Germany who worked for the Denver & Rio Grande before openning a furniture store in Salida. S.W. Sandusky was involved in dry goods, and others, including Peter Mulvany, William M. Roller, and George Smith were important businessmen involved in the Gunnison trade.

By the turn-of-the century, the railroad was the dominant economic force in Salida. A new twenty-stall roundhouse was constructed in 1902 and large shops (now housing Calco Industries) quickly followed. Transfer yards were also available, since the D & RG remained a two gauge (standard and narrow) railroad. In addition, Salida augmented its position as a railroad center by serving as a supply center for newer mining districts such as the Monarch Mining District in the southwestern portion of the county.

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As the century progressed, Salida's fortunes declined as a result of changes in the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad system. Poncha Springs developed as the freight center for the Gunnison trade by the turn-of-the century, bypassing Salida altogether. The advent of diesels, the elimination of the narrow gauge routes, and finally the construction of an east-west line between Denver and Salt Lake City all contributed to the end of Salida's prominence as a railroad center.

Salida has managed to survive the loss of the railroad. Tourism is now a major factor in the economy and the community is currently working to promote its downtown district.

The district clearly represents the best collection of historic commercial buildings both in Salida and Chaffee County. The buildings contained date primarily from the late 19th century and early 20th century. Most are one and two story brick structures with the upper stories intact. Richly decorated cornices with cresting, brackets, and brick corbelling, stone lintels and sills; and detailing including metal cornices and window caps distinguish many of the buildings, adding to the character of the district. Therefore, in scale, texture, and continuity of design features, the area forms a distinct, cohesive historic commercial entity.

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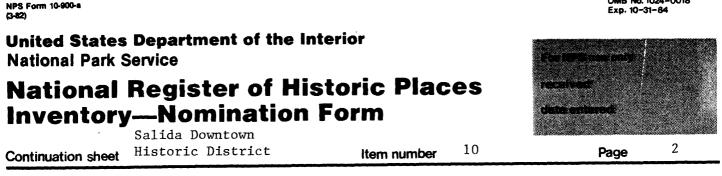
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	Salida Downtown			
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Bibliographical References:

Ham, David J. "Salida, Colorado, 1880-1886." Colorado Historical Society Monograph Series. 1983.

Pasquale, Cynthia. 100 Years in the Heart of the Rockies. 1980.



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Verbal Boundary Description and Justification (continued)

Follow the property line to the alley between Sackett and First; then east along the south side of the alley to the east property line of the building at 246 E. First Street; then at 246 E. First Street; then west along the north side of First Street approximately 75'; then south along the east property line of the building at 215 E. First Street; then west along the north side of the alley between First and Second Street to the west side of E. Street; then south along the west side of E Street to the north side of Third; then west along Third Street to the west side of F Street; follow F Street to the south property line of the grocery store at 312 F Street; then west along the property line to the west property line of the car dealership at 139 W. Third; turn north to Third Street; then east along the south side of Third approximately 125'; then north along the alley between G and F streets; then north 75' to the alley between Second and Third; then south along the property lines of the Sandusky Building at 222 F Street; north along the east side of F to Second; west along the north side of Second to the alley between F and G streets; north along this alley to the alley between First and Second; then east to F Street; north along the east side of F to First; then west along the north side of First to the east property lines of the Sherman Hotel at 149 West First; follow the property lines south to the alley between First and Second; then west across G Street through the alley next to 124 G Street to the right-of-way of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad; follow the right-of-way in a northeasterly direction across a point directly north of the NE corner of the park; then south across the river to the point of beginning.

These boundaries were drawn to encompass those structures associated with Salida's role as a major railroad center for the Upper Arkansas River Valley. The boundary on the west side of the district was drawn to exclude a number of intrusive structures, and follows the property lines where ever possible. Four structures on the west side of the district were included due to their relationship to the city's railroad history. One was a hotel, another served as the hose house, gas station, and a bottling plant. On the east side of the district, a number of residences were included to represent the importance of boarding houses in the city's history. The majority of the structures are located in the commercial core, which runs along F Street from the railroad depot, and housed the merchants, restaurants, and hotels needed to meet the demands of a growing railroad center.

