

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

JAN 10 1993

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Depot

other names/site number Alamosa County Railroad Depot; Alamosa County Depot Building; Alamosa County Department of Social Services

2. Location

street & number 610 State Street N/A not for publication

city or town Alamosa N/A vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Alamosa code 003 zip code 81001

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] January 6, 1992  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the  
National Register

Date of Action

[Signature] 2/11/93

Denver and Rio Grande

Railroad Depot  
Name of Property

Alamosa County, Colorado  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1            | 0               | buildings  |
| 0            | 0               | sites      |
| 0            | 0               | structures |
| 0            | 0               | objects    |
| 1            | 0               | Total      |

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation - Rail Related

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: Business

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls Brick  
roof Ceramic Tile  
other Wood Canopies  
Metal Tril

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

**Period of Significance**

1908 - 1942

**Significant Dates**

1908, 1930

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Denver and Rio Grande Railroad

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University/College Resource Center
- Other

Name of repository:

Adams State College

Denver and Rio Grande  
Railroad Depot  
Name of Property

Alamosa County, Colorado  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|   |      |             |               |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | 1 3  | 4 2 3 5 3 0 | 4 1 4 6 8 0 0 |
|   | Zone | Easting     | Northing      |
| 2 |      |             |               |

|   |      |         |          |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| 3 |      |         |          |
|   | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4 |      |         |          |

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Robert Zimmerman, County Commissioner  
Carol Mondragon, Administrative Assistant

organization Alamosa County date August 27, 1992

street & number 402 Edison Avenue, P. O. Box 178 telephone (719) 589-3841

city or town Alamosa state CO zip code 81101

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Alamosa County

street & number P. O. Box 178 telephone (719) 589-3841

city or town Alamosa state CO zip code 81101

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Alamosa Railroad Depot

**Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Depot  
Alamosa County, CO**

**Description**

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Depot is located on its original site fronting the Alamosa railroad tracks at the corner of Sixth and State streets in Alamosa, Colorado. Nearby, but not within the nominated area, are other railroad related buildings such as the roundhouse across the tracks and the railroad yards. The depot has a concrete walkway on three sides, a lawn on the north side, and a parking lot off Sixth Street which extends to the east. Except for the lawn area, there is minimal landscaping.

The depot was built in 1908 after fire destroyed the previous depot in 1907. The building is two stories and has an L shaped plan consisting of the south section constructed in 1908 and the west section added in 1930. The south section facing the railroad tracks has a one-story extension to the east that was used for freight. The exterior is faced with buff colored face brick. There is a tiled hipped roof over the two-story and one-story sections. The design of the building emphasizes horizontal lines associated with the large canopies over the two entryways on the south and north.

The main portion of the building facing the tracks has one of the two wooden canopies. It contains the Alamosa nameplate surrounded by a variety of pressed zinc ornaments, metal scrolls and brackets. The canopy is supported by four elaborate rods connected to the upper facade near the eaves. Simulated animal heads placed at the ends of the rain gutters on the canopy allow excess water to flow through the open mouths of the animals. The second canopy spans the entire length of the east facade of the west section and is constructed of wood supported by wooden posts. It covers what is now the main building entrance.

While serving as a depot, the building underwent few alterations. In 1961, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad sold the depot to Alamosa County and the building remained much the same until 1989. At that time, the interior was renovated for office use and is currently occupied by Alamosa County Department of Social Services.

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Alamosa Railroad Depot

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**Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Depot  
Alamosa County, CO**

**Description (continued)**

The interior originally consisted of two waiting rooms (one for men and one for women and children), a lobby, the main office, a baggage room, and an express room. All floors were concrete with the exception of the main office which had a pine floor. Wood was used extensively throughout the interior door and window trim, paneled double doors, and intricately decorated stair railings. During the 1989 renovation, the large rooms were divided into many small offices and a reception area. The interior wood trim was replaced.

While the interior renovation was extensive, the exterior of the building remains almost the same as it was originally designed. The exterior alterations consist of new entrance doors and thermal fixed pane windows which replaced the double hung wood sash.

**Statement of Significance**

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Depot meets Criterion A for its role in the development of rail transportation in southwestern Colorado and for its contributions to the continuing economic development in Alamosa and the San Luis Valley from 1908 to 1943. Twentieth-century Alamosa was the rail hub in that part of the state where the narrow gauge and standard gauge lines converged. The depot was an important transfer point for passengers, mail and freight. While this depot was not associated with the early development of Alamosa and the railroad, it does represent the continuation of that transportation history and the 20th century development and prosperity that the railroad brought to Alamosa and the San Luis Valley.

The town of Alamosa was founded in 1877 when the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad purchased 1,608 acres of land on the west bank of the Rio Grande River. By 1877 the end of the railroad line reached Garland City east of Alamosa. Work on the line to Alamosa began at the end of 1877 and on July 4, 1878 it arrived in Alamosa.

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Alamosa Railroad Depot

**Alamosa Railroad Depot  
Alamosa County, CO**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

Among the first rail shipments to Alamosa were several dismantled buildings from the town of Garland. The railroad provided the opportunity for citizens to leave Garland following the violence and brawling that occurred there on New Years Eve in 1877 when five men were shot in a saloon. The event was known as "Garland's Bloody Monday". The buildings moved to Alamosa included the Occidental Hotel, the Broadwell House and the Gem Saloon. The railroad also prompted businesses to move their headquarters to Alamosa. The Barlow and Sanderson Stagecoach company located their terminal there so passengers could board stages to Del Norte, west of Alamosa and north to Lake City. The railroad workers were now headquartered in Alamosa as were as great number of wagon freight companies. The railroad brought the residents of the southwest region many of the comforts of life that were unavailable before-- at a reasonable price. The railroad also brought adventurers and tourists to see the surrounding countryside. There was a daily passenger train to Alamosa which also hauled huge amounts of freight for transfer to points east and west.

The arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad established Alamosa's future as the railroad center in southwest Colorado. Alamosa was the railroad's division point to towns further west and south into New Mexico. The depot and rail yards were the center of activity for the Rio Grande's narrow-gauge lines. In the late 1870s, the main line extended from Alamosa to Durango and the narrow-gauge line was completed north of Durango to the mining town of Silverton in the heart of the San Juan Mountains. Lumber from southwestern Colorado and northern New Mexico and agricultural produce and livestock kept the railroad lines through Alamosa lively. The sawmills in Cortez, Durango, Juanita and Chama, New Mexico sent a constant stream of lumber to Alamosa by narrow-gauge for interchange to standard gauge and shipment to other areas of Colorado and beyond.

With the increase of mining activity in southwestern Colorado in the 1880s and 1890s, a growing amount of heavy mining equipment came through Alamosa where it was transferred to narrow-gauge or wagons bound for the San Juan Mountain mining camps and towns such as Summitville, Lake City, Silverton, Howardsville and Ouray. Due to the heavy amount of rail traffic into Alamosa it developed extensive railroad yards with a large roundhouse and shops for repairs and rebuilding of equipment. At the turn of the century

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Alamosa Railroad Depot

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**Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Depot  
Alamosa County, CO**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

there were public events held at the roundhouse. The railroad employees had a band and a baseball team.

On Christmas day in 1907, fire destroyed the frame Alamosa Depot and in the following year a new brick building was constructed. It was suitable for a mainline railroad and a major junction. The new building was beautiful and functional. Through the 1930s the depot was also the Denver and Rio Grande's division headquarters.

Alamosa continued to be a busy railroad center during World War II and the following decade dominated by local agricultural produce and livestock. Potatoes were the primary crop in the San Luis Valley. Flour mills were constructed in Alamosa to process wheat which was grown extensively across the valley. The land was equally productive for sheep raising and lamb feeding. All were shipped in great numbers through Alamosa. Agriculture became the mainstay of the San Luis Valley and resulted in good economic times in Alamosa.

With a decrease in rail transportation for passengers or freight, the Denver and Rio Grande Depot in Alamosa was closed in the 1950s and sold to Alamosa County in 1961. The activity that once was the scene at the depot has now ceased. There had been morning and evening passenger train arrivals and departures with ticket agents selling accommodations in all four directions. Milk and cream cans were shuffled about, baggage was loaded and transferred along with the ever present mail sacks.

The depot came under the care of the Board of Alamosa County Commissioners and was used for offices for public health, civil defense and the Chamber of Commerce. Throughout the 1970s, the depot was also a stopping point for buses. The building is currently occupied by the Alamosa County Department of Social Services and Colorado State University Extension Service.



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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Alamosa Railroad Depot

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**Dever and Rio Grande Railroad Depot  
Alamosa County, CO**

**Bibliography**

Chappell, Gordon S., Logging Along the Denver and Rio Grande. Golden, Colorado: Colorado Railroad Museum, 1971.

Griswold, P.R. "Bob", Rio Grande Along the Rio Grande. Denver, CO: 1986.

Hafen, LeRoy R., ed., Colorado and Its People, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1948. Vol. I, pp. 411-412.

Pueblo Chieftain, 11 November 1987, Pueblo, CO.

Valley Courier, 1 February 1988, Alamosa, CO.

**Verbal boundary description**

Beginning at a point (POB) on the North property line, said point being the intersection of the East line of State Avenue with the South line of Sixth Street, proceed East along the South line of Sixth Street for 173 feet; thence South for 146 feet; thence West 173 feet to a point on the East line of State Avenue; thence North along the East line of State Avenue for 146 feet to POB.

**Boundary justification**

The boundary includes the depot building on its original site near the railroad tracks. The south boundary is established by the railroad tracks, the north boundary is at Sixth Street. The east boundary is near the railroad repair shop and the west boundary is at State Avenue.

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Alamosa Railroad Depot

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**Denver and Rio Grande Depot  
Alamosa County, CO**

**Photo Log**

1. Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Depot  
610 State Street
2. Alamosa, CO 81101
3. Robert Zimmerman
4. Sept. 1992
5. Alamosa County Courthouse

Photo #

1. S elevation facing RR tracks, view N
2. S elevation with canopy, view NW
3. S elevation, view E
4. N facade, view S
5. W elevation, view E
6. Front entrance in L on N elevation, view S
7. E end, view W
8. Interior reception area on first floor
9. Second floor conference room
10. N elevation of west section, view S
11. S facade with canopy, view N

DENVER RIO GRANDE DEPOT  
ALAMOSA COUNTY, CO

PHOTO & SKETCH MAP

MAP 3 OF 3

PARKING LOT

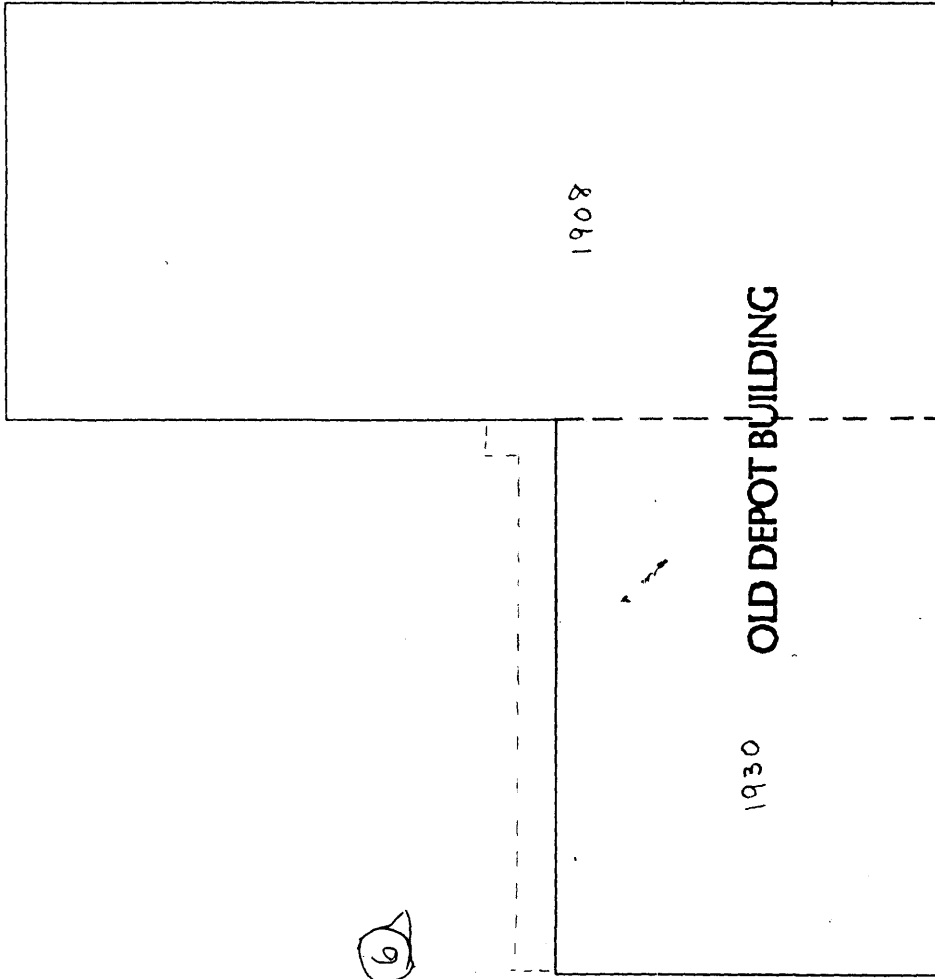
SIXTH STREET



PARKING LOT

1930 OLD DEPOT BUILDING

1908



SIDEWALK



STATE AVENUE

