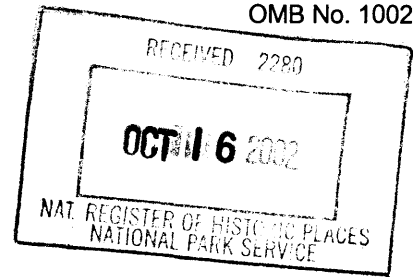


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1410

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 Rouch Gulch Bridge

other names/site number CDOT No. K-13-G; 5FN1652

### 2. Location

street & number US Highway 50 at milepost 230.12 [N/A] not for publication

city or town Swissvale [X] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Fremont code 043 zip code \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Georgina Cortez State Historic Preservation Officer September 14, 2002 Date

Signature of certifying official/Title

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society  
State or 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:

[X] 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  
[ ] See continuation sheet.

Edgar A. Beall Signature of the Keeper 11/27/02 Date of Action

Rouch Gulch Bridge  
Name of Property

Fremont County, Colorado  
County/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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	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.)

Highway Bridges in Colorado

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Road-related  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Road-related  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Concrete filled spandrel arch  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other Concrete \_\_\_\_\_  
Asphalt \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

Rouch Gulch Bridge  
Name of Property

Fremont County, Colorado  
County/State

**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.

**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  
# \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation  
Engineering

**Periods of Significance**  
1934-1952

**Significant Dates**  
N/A

**Significant Person(s)**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**  
N/A

**Architect/Builder**  
Colorado Department of Highways  
Gordon Construction Company

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
Colorado Historical Society  
Colorado Dept. of Transportation

Rouch Gulch Bridge  
Name of Property

Fremont County, Colorado  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 423480 4258360  
Zone Easting Northing

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

[ ] 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 Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and Clay Fraser, principal

organization Colorado Historical Society and Fraser Design date May 21, 2002

street & number 1300 Broadway telephone 303-866-4681

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80203

## 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 Colorado Department of Transportation

street & number 4201 E. Arkansas Avenue telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80222

**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).

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Rouch Gulch Bridge  
Fremont County, Colorado  
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

Section number 7 Page 1

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**DESCRIPTION**

Location: US Highway 50 at milepost 230.12, 7.7 miles southeast of Salida

Setting: Over Rouch Gulch in area of steep rocky hills

Structure length: 69 feet

Structure width: 33.50 feet

Roadway width: 30 feet

Main span number: 1

Main span length: 55 feet

Superstructure: Concrete filled spandrel arch bridge

Substructure: Concrete abutments and wingwalls

Floor/decking: Concrete deck with asphalt overlay

Other features: Colorado Highway Department slotted concrete guardrails

Erected: 1934

Designer: Colorado Department of Highways

Contractor: Gordon Construction Company

Alterations: Flex beams added to original guardrails in 1981.

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

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Rouch Gulch Bridge  
Fremont County, Colorado  
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

The 1934 Rouch Gulch Bridge on US Highway 50, 7.7 miles southeast of Salida, meets the registration requirements under Criterion A in the area of Transportation and under Criterion C in the area of Engineering as set forth in the *Highway Bridges in Colorado*, Multiple Property Documentation Form. The period of significance begins in 1934 with the completion of the bridge and extends through its historic use to 1952, a date fifty-years-of-age in keeping with National Register criteria.

Designated by the Highway Commission during 1911-1912, State Primary Road No. 22 extended across El Paso and Fremont counties. Whether as State Primary Road No. 22 or in its subsequent iterations, this route across eastern Colorado formed an important link between Colorado Springs and the Western Slope. Although not a major crossing, the Rouch Gulch Bridge is a noteworthy resource along the route, built as this segment was being upgraded from a gravel road to a paved highway.

Beginning at Colorado Springs, State Primary Road No. 22 headed southwest across rolling terrain to Florence, where it followed the Arkansas River to Cañon City. From Cañon City, the route paralleled the river and the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad to Salida, where it joined with Primary Roads No. 28 and 17. Extending some 122 miles, Primary Road No. 22 followed one of the oldest overland routes through Colorado and soon became part of the southern branch of the Midland Highway.

In 1922, the US Bureau of Public Roads approved Colorado's first federal aid highway system. Of the 48,000 miles of roads in the state, some 3,360 were declared as state highways, under the aegis of the Colorado Highway Department (CHD). Under the new system, State Primary Road No. 22 was redesignated as State Highway 6. Three years later it was incorporated into US Highway 50, which ran from Holly on the eastern edge of the state to Grand Junction on the west.

During the 1910s and 1920s, Fremont County and the state made incremental improvements to the route, grading the roadway and building drainage structures. In 1934 CHD undertook National Recovery Highway Project 113-C, which included replacement of an existing bridge over Rouch Gulch near Swissvale. The contract to build the road and bridge was awarded to the Gordon Construction Company, and the bridge has carried mainline traffic on US Highway 50 since its completion in essentially unaltered condition.

**Engineering**

The concrete Rouch Gulch Bridge is technologically significant as an intact early example of highway bridge design by CHD. The Highway Commission had formulated design standards

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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Rouch Gulch Bridge  
Fremont County, Colorado  
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

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for concrete arch bridges as early as the 1910s, building them occasionally on state highways and distributing the plans to the individual counties. CHD never built many concrete arch bridges, preferring steel and concrete beam construction. Subsequent attrition has depleted their numbers further. As a result, relatively few state designed concrete arches remain in place in Colorado. The Rouch Gulch Bridge is particularly distinguished among the survivors for its excellent state of preservation.

As delineated by CHD engineers, the proposed bridge was configured as a single-span, reinforced concrete arch, carried by concrete abutments with angled wingwalls. The Rouch Gulch Bridge spanned 55 feet and had a 30 foot wide earth-filled deck flanked on both sides by CHD standard concrete guardrails with slotted cutouts.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Rouch Gulch Bridge  
Fremont County, Colorado  
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Colorado Department of Transportation. Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. K-13-G. Located at CDOT. Denver. Co.

Colorado Highway Department. Bridge Kardex File. Located at CDOT Bridge Division, Denver, CO.

*Fourth Biennial Report of the State Highway Commission 1915-1916.* Denver: Smith-Brooks Printing Company. 1917.

Fraser, Clayton B. Field inspection October 1998.

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Maloney, J.E. "Standard Bridge Plans." *Colorado Highways Bulletin* 2:11, November 1919.

*Second Biennial Report of the State Highway Commission 1911-1912.* Denver: Smith-Brooks Printing Company. 1912.

*Third Biennial Report of the State Highway Commission 1913-1914.* Denver: Smith-Brooks Printing Company, 1915.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Rouch Gulch Bridge  
Fremont County, Colorado  
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The bridge is located on US Highway 50 at milepost 230.12. The boundaries of this nomination consist of a rectangle of land 10 feet out in each direction from the footprint of the bridge.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nomination includes all the land directly and historically associated with the bridge.

**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-2:

Name of Property: Rouch Gulch Bridge  
Location: Fremont County, Colorado  
Photographer: Clayton Fraser  
Date of Photographs: October 1998  
Negatives: Colorado Department of Transportation

Photo No.                      Photographic Information

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- 1 View to south, through bridge
- 2 View to southeast, of roadway

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Rouch Gulch Bridge  
Fremont County, Colorado  
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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP  
Wellsville Quadrangle, Colorado  
7.5 Minute Series

