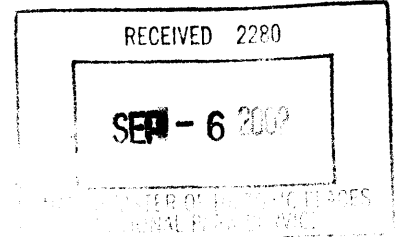


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Little Fountain Creek Bridge

other names/site number CDOT No. J-17-F; 5EP3603

2. Location

street & number Colorado Highway 115 at milepost 36.84 [N/A] not for publication

city or town Widfield [X] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county El Paso code 041 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 Rodriguez
Signature of certifying official/Title

State Historic Preservation Officer August 21, 2002
Date

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:

- 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.

Edson A. Beall
Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action 10/15/02

Little Fountain Creek Bridge
Name of Property

El Paso 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: Steel multiplate arch

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
walls _____
roof _____
other Steel
Stone
Asphalt

Narrative Description

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

Little Fountain Creek Bridge
Name of Property

El Paso 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

Politics/Government

Engineering

Periods of Significance

1936-1952

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

Thompson Manufacturing Company

Works Progress Administration

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

Little Fountain Creek Bridge
Name of Property

El Paso County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 513160 4280710
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**

Little Fountain Creek Bridge
El Paso County, Colorado
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

Location: Colorado Highway 115 at milepost 36.84, 9.6 miles northeast of the Fremont/El Paso county line.

Setting: Over Little Fountain Creek

Structure length: 32 feet

Structure width: 67.8 feet

Roadway width: 44 feet

Main span number: 2

Main span length: 15 feet

Superstructure: Steel multiplate arch culvert with stone masonry headwalls

Substructure: Stone abutments, wingwalls and piers with angled cutwaters

Floor/decking: Asphalt roadway on earth overburden

Other features: Steel flex beam guardrails

Erected: 1936

Designer: Colorado Department of Highways

Fabricator: Thompson Manufacturing Company

Contractor: Works Progress Administration

Alterations: Headwalls extended and guardrails added circa 1970; some rise in highway grade.

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Little Fountain Creek Bridge
El Paso County, Colorado
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

Section number 9 Page 2

SIGNIFICANCE

The 1936 Little Fountain Creek Bridge on Colorado Highway 115, 9.6 miles northeast of the Fremont/El Paso county line, meets the registration requirements under Criterion A in the areas of Transportation and Politics/Government 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 1936 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.

This multiplate arch bridge carries paved State Highway 115 over Little Fountain Creek in rural El Paso County between Colorado Springs and Cañon City. It was constructed in 1936 by a Works Progress Administration crew as part of general construction on the highway. "Elimination of dangerous curves, reduction of grades and widening of the road has [sic] been accomplished by WPA workmen engaged in improving state highway No. 115 between Colorado Springs and Cañon City," *The WPA Worker* reported in April 1937.

During the 1930s the Great Depression devastated the nation's economy, leaving millions jobless and homeless. By 1933 more than 13 million workers were unemployed, more than a thousand homes were being foreclosed upon each day, and cities and counties across the country were bankrupt. In an effort to alleviate the financial distress, at least in part, President Franklin Roosevelt established a variety of federal agencies whose primary purpose was to funnel billions of dollars of relief money to the destitute citizenry. A favored way of distributing funds to the unemployed was by means of so-called make-work projects directed toward maintaining national forests and parks, producing artwork for public places, writing tourist guides, documenting historic sites, constructing buildings, irrigation works, dams, roads, bridges, etc.

To administer all of this activity, the Roosevelt administration established such bureaus as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Work Projects Administration (later renamed the Works Progress Administration). In Colorado, the WPA employed as many as 43,000 workers at one time on projects that ranged from sewing and writing to landscaping urban parks, constructing libraries and hospitals and grading roads. According to *The WPA Worker*,

The vast panorama of roads and bridges, of new school houses and additions, or sidewalks and curbs, of unsightly trash holes covered and landscaped into scenic spots, of new camping nooks in the mountains, of flood protection in retaining walls and rip-rapping, altogether have set this state ahead by many decades.

In August 1936 the WPA completed its longest bridge in the state, a 74-span structure over

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Little Fountain Creek Bridge
El Paso County, Colorado
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

Section number 9 Page 3

Bijou Creek in Morgan County, as well as major timber trestles over the Arikaree River in Yuma and Washington counties. Though at the other end of the scale in size, the Little Fountain Creek Bridge in El Paso County is noteworthy nonetheless. Its extensive, well-crafted stonework embodies the rustic design ideals espoused by the WPA and CCC in their construction projects. The bridge was widely known by the Colorado construction industry, having been advertised by both the WPA and the arch fabricator in periodicals of the time. Additionally, its use of steel multiplate arches distinguishes it as one of the first such WPA structures built in Colorado. As the most notable WPA built highway structure in El Paso County, the Little Fountain Creek Bridge is significant for its prominent representation of Depression-era relief agency construction.

Engineering

The WPA built several small drainage structures along the highway's length, but the largest and most impressive structure built in the project was this two barrel bridge over Little Fountain Creek. Designed by the Colorado Highway Department, the Little Fountain Creek Bridge was comprised of two semicircular 15 foot diameter, "sectional plate copper molybdenum iron arches." These were supported high above the streambed by stone masonry and abutments and piers with bullnosed cutwaters. The bridge's headwalls were faced with limestone ashlar masonry to match the substructure and wingwalls. Cut stone voussoirs and a keystone surrounded the arches, giving the bridge the appearance of a true stone arch structure.

The WPA used No. 1 gauge plates supplied by the Thompson Manufacturing Company of Denver to build the bridge, completing the stonework late in 1936. *The WPA Worker* described the construction process:

The multiplate arch is delivered to the field in sections and when fastened together forms a practically solid arch. It is erected with the use of templates holding the first arch in place until it is securely bolted. The remaining sections are self-supporting, resting on the first arch.

Once the arches were installed and the masonry work completed, earth fill was shoveled over them, on top of which was laid the gravel roadway. Since its completion, the Little Fountain Creek Bridge has functioned in place, with the construction of concrete vertical extensions over the original headwalls and the raising of the highway grade as the only alterations of note.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Little Fountain Creek Bridge
El Paso County, Colorado
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- "Canon City Road Improved by WPA Workmen." *The WPA Worker* 2:4, April 1937.
- Colorado Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. J-17-F. Located at CDOT, Denver, CO.
- Colorado Highway Department. Bridge Kardex File. Located at CDOT Bridge Division, Denver, CO.
- "Flood Destroyed Structures Replaced by WPA." *The WPA Worker* 1:7, December 1936.
- Fraser, Clayton B. Field inspection October 1999.
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- "Longest WPA Bridge in the State." *The WPA Worker* 1:3, August 1936.
- "New Bridges Eliminate Highway Dangers." *The WPA Worker* 2:2, February 1937.
- "Thompson Sectional Plate Arches and Culverts (advertisement)." *Rocky Mountain Contractor* 20:8, 27 April 1938.

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Continuation Sheet

Little Fountain Creek Bridge
El Paso County, Colorado
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

Section number 10 Page 5

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The bridge is located on Colorado Highway 115 at milepost 36.84. 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: Little Fountain Creek Bridge
Location: El Paso County, Colorado
Photographer: Clayton Fraser
Date of Photographs: October 1999
Negatives: Colorado Department of Transportation

Photo No. **Photographic Information**

- 1 View to northeast along roadway
- 2 View to northwest of stonework

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Continuation Sheet

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Little Fountain Creek Bridge
El Paso County, Colorado
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Cheyenne Mountain Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

