

HABS/HAER INVENTORY

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, DC 20240

1. SITE I.D. NO

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2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Rifle Bridge
Bridge over Colorado River

GA06

5. ORIGINAL USE

roadway bridge

7. CLASSIFICATION

BT&A: TRUSS: STEEL

7 6 0 3

9. RATING

local

10. DATE

1909

3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

NE 1/4 S16, T6S, R93W

6. PRESENT USE

roadway bridge

8	UTM ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING							
	1	3		2	6	0	9	7	5	4	3	7	8	8	8	0

11. REGION

RMRO

4. CITY/VICINITY

Rifle

COUNTY

Garfield

STATE

Colorado

SCALE

1:24

1:62.5

OTHER

QUAD

NAME

Rifle

12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS

Garfield County Garfield County Courthouse 8th and Colorado Glenwood Springs Colorado

13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC

Pin-connected, steel 12-panel Pennsylvania and 10-panel Parker through truss

span number: 2	end/top chrd: 2 channels w/ cover plate and lacing
span length: 240'0"(Pen.); 190'0"(Par.)	bottom chord: 2 rectangular eyebars
overall length: 434'0"	vertical: 2 channels w/ lacing
overall height: 34'4"(Pen.); 31'6"(Par.)	diagonal: 2 rectangular eyebars; 1-2 square eyebars w/turnbuckle
clearance hgt.: 16'9"	flr./decking: asphalt over corrugated steel deck w/ steel stringers
roadway width: 17'4"	substructure: solid concrete pier w/ concrete wingwalls

After years of continued repairs to the substructure of the original 1890s bridge over the Grand (Colorado) River at Rifle, the Garfield County commissioners finally elected in 1908 to replace it completely. Bids were received in November from M.F. Levy, M.E. Moulton and Denver-based Charles G. Sheely. Low bidder at \$26,872, Sheely was awarded the contract; construction began early in 1909 and was completed by autumn. This dissimilar two-span truss, however, was situated poorly on a tight bend in the river and has required periodical maintenance to keep it in place. Despite construction of a concrete jetty in 1922 to divert the main channel, the Colorado continues to work against the pier and north abutment. Replaced with another span, this bridge now serves as a pedestrian crossing.

14. CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT)

YES

NO

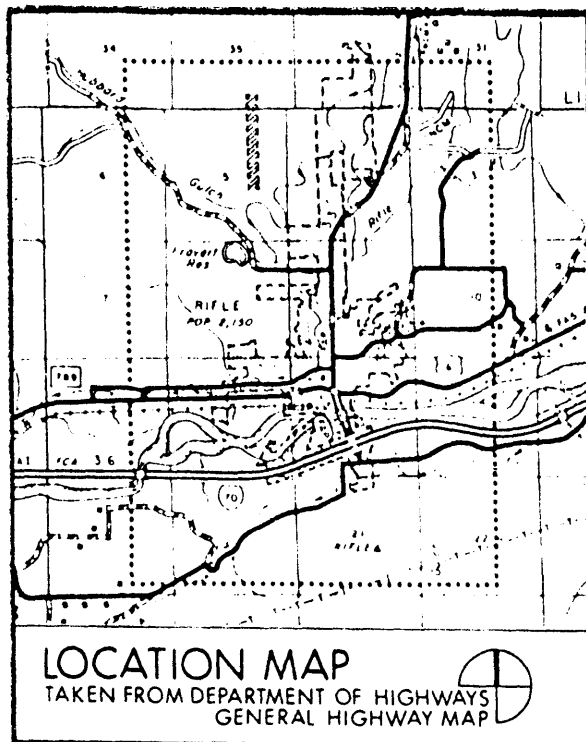
UNKNOWN

bridge abandoned

16. SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Engineering

The Rifle Bridge is historically significant as a regionally important crossing of the Colorado River - the most expensive contracted for by Garfield County. Its Pennsylvania through span is the longest among the pinned trusses left in the state and is one of only two of its type in the survey; the Parker through is one of only two and is the longest of its type, and the two combined to form one bridge is unique. Erected by important Colorado bridge contractor C.G. Sheely, the Rifle Bridge is a visually striking long-span truss - one of Colorado's most significant vehicular bridges.



18. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO NAME

19. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY YES, LIMITED YES, UNLIMITED
 NO UNKNOWN

20. EXISTING SURVEYS NR NHL HABS HAER-1 HAER NPS STATE
 COUNTY LOCAL OTHER

21. REFERENCES--HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

Garfield County Commissioners' Minutes: 7 September 1900 (Book C, page 142), 15 December 1900 (Book C, pages 171-72), 2 January 1901 (Book C, page 178), 3 April 1901 (Book C, page 200), 10 January 1902 (Book C, page 244), 14 January 1902 (Book C, page 246), 25 February 1902 (Book C, page 248), 26 February 1902 (Book C, page 249), 2 September 1902 (Book C, page 271), 8 April 1903 (Book C, page 307), 5 April 1904 (Book C, page 363), 5 June 1905 (Book C, page 418), 1 October 1906 (Book C, page 468), 12 November 1906 (Book C, page 470), 6 February 1907 (Book C, page 484), 12 November 1908 (Book C, page 544), 30 November 1908 (Book C, page 553), 11 January 1909 (Book C, page 556), 6 April 1909 (Book C, page 566), 8 June 1909 (Book C, page 574), 10 February 1910 (Book C, pages 617-18), 11 February 1911 (Book D, page 41), 5 February 1913 (Book D, page 147), 21 February 1913 (Book D, page 149), 9 June 1915 (Book D, page 285), 29 February 1916 (Book D, page 330), 3 April 1916 (Book D, page 335), 5 December 1921 (Book E, page 388).
Garfield County Courthouse, Glenwood Springs Colorado.

"County Bridge at Rifle in Danger," Glenwood Post, Glenwood Colorado. 23 May 1929.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser and Carl Hallberg. 19 October 1983.

22. INVENTORIED BY

Clayton Fraser and Carl Hallberg

AFFILIATION

Fraserdesign Loveland Colorado

DATE

27 November 1983