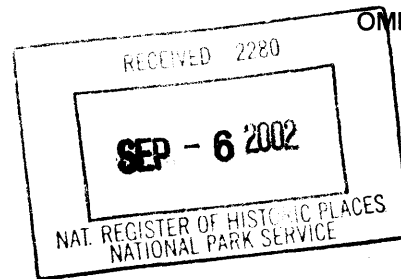


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1154

# 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 Colorado River Bridge

other names/site number CDOT No. G-04-A; 5ME11803

## 2. Location

street & number Interstate Highway 70 Frontage Road at milepost 62.90 [N/A] not for publication

city or town De Beque [X] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Mesa code 077 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 Cortigaglia  
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 W. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action  
10/15/02

Colorado River Bridge  
Name of Property

Mesa 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, rigid-connected Parker through  
truss  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

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

**Narrative Description**

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

Colorado River Bridge  
Name of Property

Mesa 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

1945-1952

### 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

Minneapolis-Moline Power Implement Co

Horner, A.S.

### 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

Colorado River Bridge  
Name of Property

Mesa County, Colorado  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 12 741970 4358150  
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.*)

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Colorado River Bridge  
Mesa County, Colorado  
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

Section number 7 Page 1

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**DESCRIPTION**

Location: Interstate Highway 70 Frontage Road at milepost 62.90, one mile east of De Beque

Setting: Over Colorado River

Structure length: 407 feet

Structure width: 31.70 feet

Roadway width: 30 feet

Main span number: 2

Main span length: 200 feet

Superstructure: Steel, rigid-connected Parker through truss

Substructure: Concrete abutments, wingwalls and piers with bullnosed cutwaters

Floor/decking: Concrete deck with asphalt overlay

Other features: Upper chord – 2 channels with cover plate and double lacing

Lower chord – 2 channels with batten plates

Vertical and diagonal – wide flange

Floor beams and stringers – steel I beam

Steel pipe guardrails

Erected: 1945

Designer: Colorado Department of Highways

Fabricator: Minneapolis-Moline Power Implement Company

Contractor: A.S. Horner

Alterations: None

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Colorado River Bridge  
Mesa County, Colorado  
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

Section number 8 Page 2

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

The 1945 Colorado River Bridge on Interstate Highway 70 Frontage Road, 1 mile east of De Beque, 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 1945 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.

Because the existing De Beque Bridge at the crossing was already beginning to form a bottleneck to interstate traffic, the Colorado Highway Department (CHD) wanted to replace it in the early 1940s, but the embargo on strategic materials during World War II prevented construction. After the war ended, CHD was finally able to fund a replacement bridge under Federal Aid Project 210-C(I) and contracted with A.S. Horner to erect the bridge. Using steel superstructures fabricated by the Minneapolis-Moline Power Implement Company, Horner built the bridge in 1945. The Colorado River Bridge, now functioning as a portion of Interstate Highway 70's frontage road, remains in place at this rural crossing in an essentially unaltered condition.

One of the first major bridge projects undertaken by the State Engineer's Office was a long-span, wrought iron truss bridge over the Colorado River at De Beque. Built in 1891-1892 by the Missouri Valley Bridge & Iron Works, its 250 foot span distinguished it among Colorado's early wagon bridges, and it served as a regionally important crossing of the Colorado River in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1911, when the newly formed Colorado Highway Commission designated its first state road system, it recognized the De Beque Bridge as a pivotal point on State Primary Road No. 11.

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 CHD. State Primary Road No. 11 was redesignated as State Highway 4. Three years later, CHD again renumbered the state's routes to integrate with the newly designated federal highway network, and State Highway 4 was incorporated into US Highway 40 South from Colorado Springs to Grand Junction. When CHD upgraded the highway in the 1930s and 1940s, it further bolstered the road's importance. As an integral part of this endeavor, the 1945 Colorado River Bridge is important for its contribution to Colorado transportation history.

**Engineering**

The bridge is technologically noteworthy as an intact example of CHD standard truss design. The highway department erected numerous Parker trusses between 1922 and 1945 at highway river crossings throughout the state, ranging in span length from 125 to 200 feet.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Colorado River Bridge  
Mesa County, Colorado  
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

Section number 8 Page 3

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Subsequent attrition of these long span bridges has been severe, and only eight Parker through trusses remain in place on Colorado's highways. The well-preserved Colorado River Bridge is one of the few surviving examples of what was once a mainstay structural type.

The original De Beque Bridge consisted of a 250 foot pin-connected Baltimore truss and a 150 foot pinned Pratt truss, that made up an overall length of 400 feet. For the new bridge, CHD engineers delineated a pair of 200 foot trusses, with an overall length of a little more than 400 feet and a roadway width of 30 feet. Its rigid-connected Parker trusses were supported by reinforced concrete abutments and piers with bullnosed cutwaters. The trusses' upper chords and inclined end posts consisted of two back-to-back 12 inch steel channels, covered by a continuous 3/8 inch steel plate on top and joined by bar lacing underneath. The verticals, diagonals and sub-struts were 10 inch wide flanges, braced laterally by a laced two angle member that extended horizontally across two of the central panels. The lower chords were made up of two back-to-back 12 inch channels with batten plates. All of these web members were field riveted, using 3/8 inch steel gusset plates.

To brace the two webs laterally, overhead struts extended 16 feet above the roadway at the panel points. The interior struts consisted of two back-to-back pairs of 3x5 inch angles, joined by bar lacing and braced underneath by latticed panels. The portal struts were heavily gusseted, steel angle lattices, with the lower chords angled downward toward the end posts to form integral kneebraces. Wide flange floor beams were riveted to the verticals at the panel points; these supported wide flange stringers, on which the concrete slab deck rested. This 8 inch thick deck was flanked on each side by an integrally poured concrete curb and steel lattice guardrail with steel plate hub rail. The truss was simply supported on its four corners by heavy cast steel bearing shoes, which were fixed on one end and rocking on the other and anchor bolted to the abutments.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Colorado River Bridge  
Mesa County, Colorado  
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

Section number 9 Page 4

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Colorado River Bridge  
Mesa County, Colorado  
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

Section number 10 Page 5

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The bridge is located on Interstate Highway 70 Frontage Road at milepost 62.90. 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 1-3:

Name of Property: Colorado River Bridge  
Location: Mesa County, Colorado  
Photographer: Clayton Fraser  
Date of Photographs: September 1998  
Negatives: Colorado Department of Transportation

Photo No.                      Photographic Information

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- 1 View to south of roadway
- 2 View to northeast through bridge
- 3 View to southeast through bridge

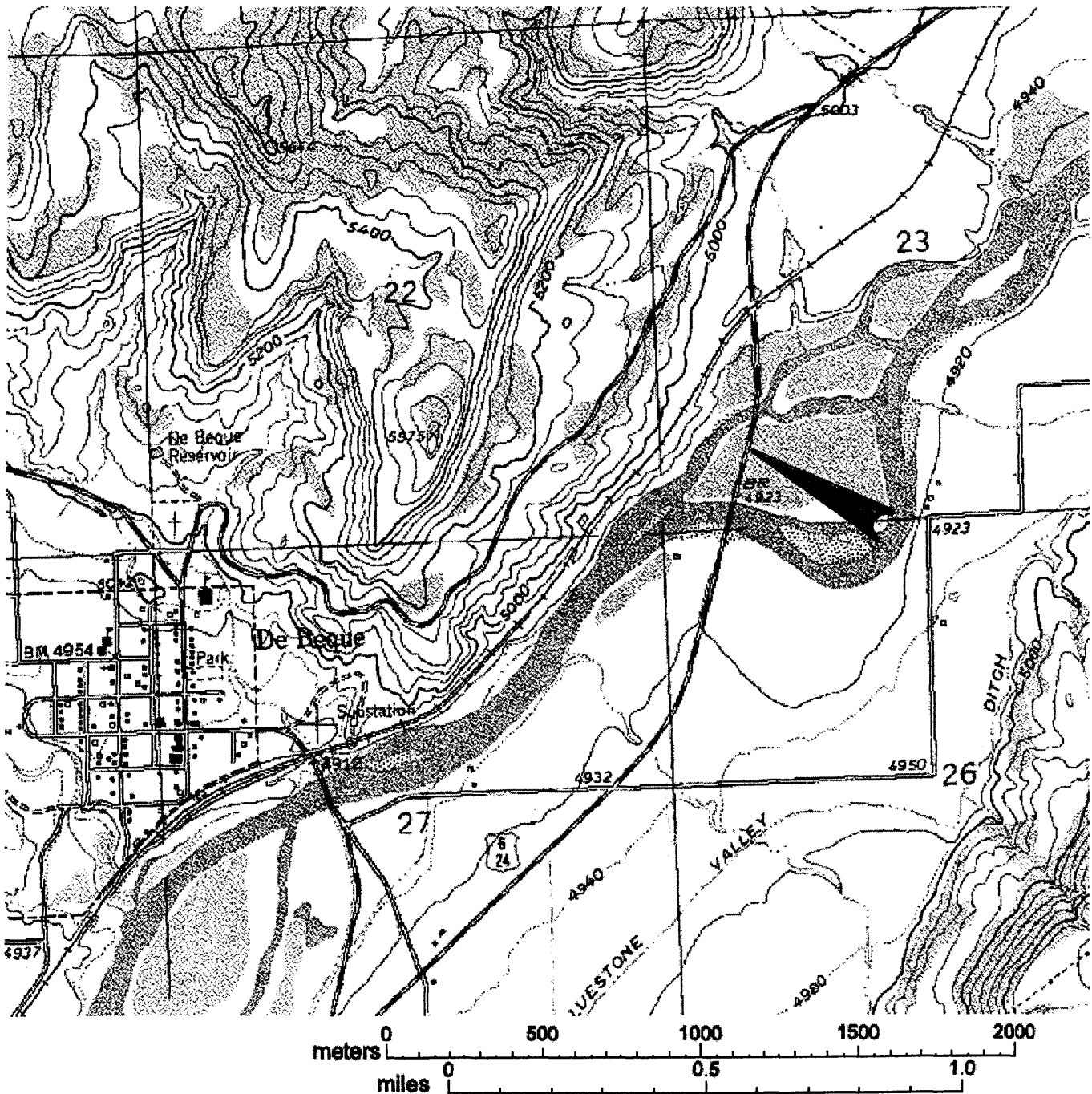
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Colorado River Bridge  
Mesa County, Colorado  
Highway Bridges in Colorado, MPS

Section number \_\_\_ Page 6

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP  
De Beque Quadrangle, Colorado  
7.5 Minute Series



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Colorado River Bridge

MULTIPLE NAME: Highway Bridges in Colorado MPS

STATE & COUNTY: COLORADO, Mesa

DATE RECEIVED: 5/07/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/21/03  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02001154

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Additional Documentation Accepted**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 6/20/03

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

02001154

Colorado River Bridge  
Mesa County/ Colorado  
Highway Bridges in Colorado MPS

Section number 10 Page 1

This additional documentation corrects an erroneous UTM reference contained in the original nomination. The boundary justification remains unchanged.

**UTM References**

1.	12	741900	4357940	✓
	Zone	Easting	Northing	

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.)

Heather Ann Cortez Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer April 29 2003  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, 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