

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

Fruita Bridge; State Bridge
Bridge over Colorado River ME10

5. ORIGINAL USE

roadway bridge

7. CLASSIFICATION

BT&A: TRUSS: STEEL

9. RATING

7 6 0 3 (local)

10. DATE

1906

3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

County Road 17.50 over Colorado River
1.6 miles south of Fruita
SW¼ S26, T1N, R2W

6. PRESENT USE

roadway bridge
(abandoned)

8	UTM ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	11. REGION
1	2	6 9 6 1 4 0	4 3 3 4 2 1 0	RMRO

4. CITY/VICINITY

Fruita vicinity

COUNTY

Mesa

STATE

Colorado

SCALE

1:24

1:62.5

QUAD

Fruita

NAME

12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS

Mesa County Mesa County Courthouse 619 East Main Grand Junction Colorado

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

Pin-connected, 8-panel steel Parker through truss

span number: 3	end/top chrd: 2 channels w/ cover plate and lacing
span length: 155' 0"	bottom chord: 2 rectangular eyebars
overall length: 472' 0"	vertical: 2 channels w/ lacing
overall height: 28' 11"	diagonal: 2 rectangular eyebars; 2 round eyebars w/ turnbuckles
clearance hgt.: 14' 1"	flr./decking: timber decking and stringers w/rolled steel floor beams
roadway width: 15' 3"	substructure: steel-cased concrete piers

The Town of Fruita first approached the Mesa County Board of Commissioners and then the State Legislature in 1905 for a bridge over the Grand (Colorado) River south of town. Town and county came to terms early in 1906, and the state agreed the following year to allocate \$3000 for the construction expense. The M.J. Patterson Construction Company of Denver was contracted in June 1906 to erect this three-span pinned Parker through truss for \$17,763, and work on the abutments began soon after. Using steel components forged by the Carnegie and Jones and Laughlin mills, Patterson completed the bridge in late March 1907. Despite some initial subsidence of one of the piers, it was put into use later that spring and served for years as the main highway from Fruita south. In 1970 the road was realigned and the bridge replaced. Its stringers and beams have since been damaged by fire, but the truss remains otherwise intact.

14. CONDITION

EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED RUINS

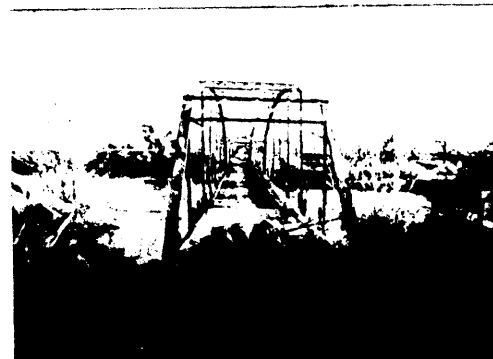
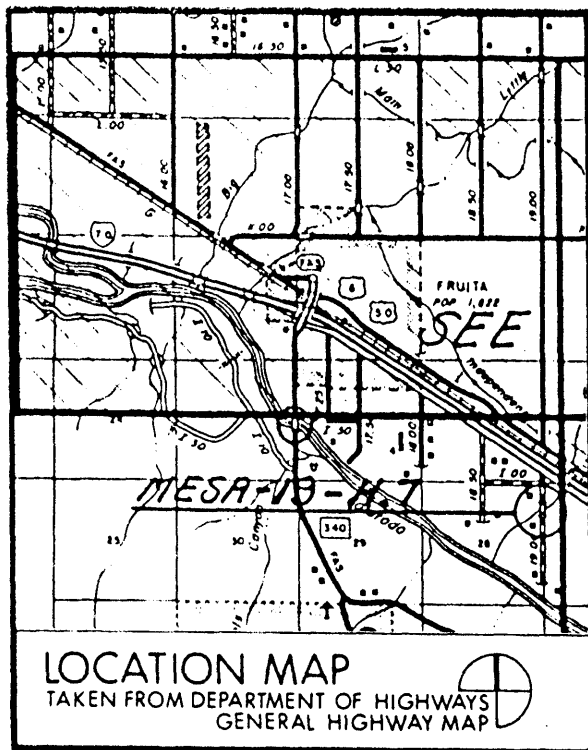
15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT)

YES NO UNKNOWN
bridge damaged and abandoned

16. SIGNIFICANCE AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Engineering

A regionally important early roadway crossing of the Colorado River, the Fruita Bridge is significant as one of a handful of spans left in the state associated with notable local bridge engineer M.J. Patterson. It is the oldest of the three pinned Parker through trusses in the survey (others: Rifle Bridge (GA06) and Nyberg Bridge (PU05)) and is one of only two pinned trusses with more than two spans in succession (other: Prowers Bridge (BE01)). The most visually striking example left of a once-common vehicular truss type, the Fruita Bridge is one of Colorado's most outstanding bridges.

FEB 4 1995



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

Vertical files of State Engineer: Mesa County Bridge, Fruita. Colorado Department of Highways, Denver Colorado.

Mesa County Commissioners' Minutes: 1 August 1904 (Book 3, page 365), 12 February 1905 (Book 3, page 462), 16 February 1905 (Book 3, page 463), 12 April 1906 (Book 3, page 475), 17 April 1906 (Book 3, page 477), 31 December 1906 (Book 4, page 17). Mesa County Courthouse, Grand Junction Colorado.

14th Biennial Report of the State Engineer, Colorado: 1907-1908. Denver Colorado: Smith-Brooks Printing Company, 1909. page 117.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser and Susan Cason. 19 November 1983.

22. INVENTORIED BY

Clayton Fraser and Carl Hallberg

AFFILIATION

Fraserdesign Loveland Colorado

DATE

30 November 1983