

# 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

South Canon Bridge  
Bridge over Colorado River

GA05

5. ORIGINAL USE

roadway bridge

7. CLASSIFICATION

BT&A: TRUSS: STEEL

7	6	0	3
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9. RATING  
local

10. DATE  
1914

3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

County Road 134 over Colorado River  
4.6 miles west of Glenwood Springs  
SW¼ S2, T6S, R90W

6. PRESENT USE

roadway bridge  
(abandoned)

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

11. REGION  
RMRO

4. CITY/VICINITY

Glenwood Springs vicinity

COUNTY

Garfield

STATE

Colorado

SCALE

1:24

1:62.5

QUAD NAME

Storm King Mtn.

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, EXTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

Pin-connected, 10-panel steel Pennsylvania through truss

span number: 1	end/top chrd: 2 channels w/ cover plate and lacing
span length: 190'0"	bottom chord: 2 rectangular eyebars
overall length: 192'0"	vertical: 2 channels w/lacing; 4 angles w/lacing
overall height: 31'6"	diagonal: 1-2 rectangular eyebars; 2 square eyebars w/ turnbuckles
clearance hgt.: 14'8"	flr./decking: asphalt over corrugated steel w/ steel stringers
roadway width: 15'7"	substructure: concrete wingwalls

When the Garfield County commissioners received the first petition late in 1902 from the Boston-Colorado Coal Company for a bridge over the Grand (Colorado) River to the newly opened mines in South Canon, they instead built a temporary ferry at the crossing. After eleven years of intermittent petitioning from the mine operators and nearby residents, the county finally advertised for proposals for a steel truss to replace the ferry. In 1914 the Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company was awarded the construction contract from a field of six bidders, for \$9430. Despite a delay-filled erection, in which the superstructure was washed away once, this 190' span was completed in May 1915. It still remains in place in good condition but has more recently been replaced with another bridge and abandoned.

14. CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?  
(SPECIFY THREAT)

YES

NO

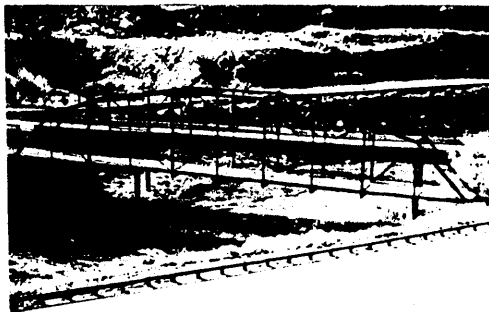
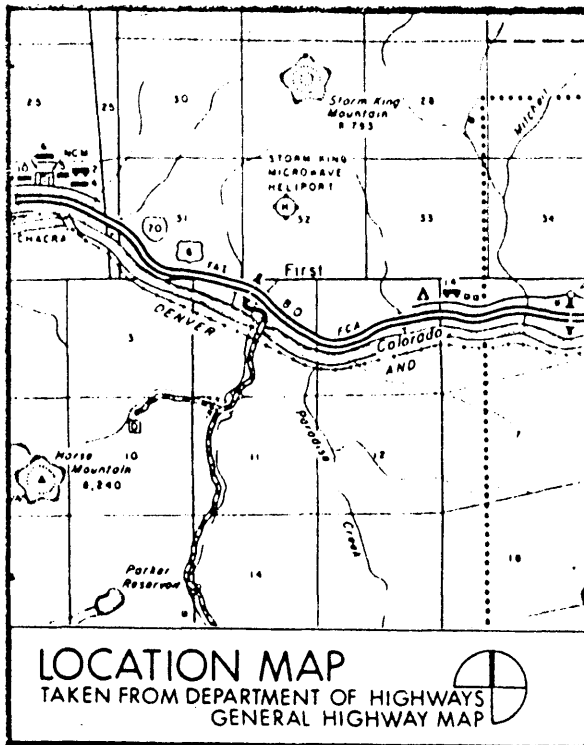
UNKNOWN

bridge abandoned

16. SIGNIFICANCE AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Engineering

As a subtype of the Pratt configuration, the Pennsylvania truss was generally used in long-span applications in which mid-panel bracing was required for stability. It was an uncommon vehicular truss form, and only two pinned Pennsylvania through trusses are included in the survey. Both the South Canon Bridge and the Rifle Bridge (GA06) have been replaced and no longer function as roadway spans. One of the last remaining examples of a visually striking long-span bridge type, built by a nationally important bridge contractor, the South Canon Bridge is one of Colorado's more significant early bridges.

FEB 1982



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: 26 December 1902 (Book C, page 289), 18 February 1903 (Book C, page 299), 19 February 1903 (Book C, page 300), 7 July 1903 (Book C, page 314), 27 November 1903 (Book C, page 329), 21 September 1904 (Book C, page 384), 15 November 1904 (Book C, page 387), 8 September 1911 (Book D, page 68), 9 May 1912 (Book D, page 99), 5 February 1913 (Book D, page 146), 25 November 1913 (Book D, page 189), 13 January 1914 (Book D, page 202), 4 February 1914 (Book D, page 204), 5 February 1914 (Book D, page 205), 24 February 1914 (Book D, page 207), 2 March 1914 (Book D, page 209), 8 April 1914 (Book D, pages 213-14), 11 April 1914 (Book D, page 217), 7 May 1914 (Book D, page 220), 20 July 1914 (Book D, page 232), 4 January 1915 (Book D, page 257), 2 February 1915 (Book D, page 260), 3 February 1915 (Book D, page 261), 15 May 1915 (Book D, page 266). Garfield County Courthouse, Glenwood Springs Colorado.

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

22. INVENTORIED BY

Clayton Fraser and Carl Hallberg

AFFILIATION

Fraserdesign Loveland Colorado

DATE

22 November 1983