

# HABS/HAER INVENTORY

U.S. Department of the Interior JUN 24 1993  
National Park Service  
Washington, DC 20240

1. SITE I.D. NO		2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE State Bridge Bridge over Grand River		EA15	5. ORIGINAL USE roadway bridge	7. CLASSIFICATION BT&A: TRUSS: WOOD				7	6	0	0	9. RATING
3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO) NW 1/4 S26, T2S, R83W		6. PRESENT USE roadway bridge (abandoned)								10. DATE 1890				
4. CITY/VICINITY State Bridge		COUNTY Eagle	STATE Colorado	8. UTM ZONE 1 3		EASTING 3 5 9 0 0 0				NORTHING 4 4 1 3 0 8 0				11. REGION RMRO
12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS Eagle County		Eagle County Courthouse		SCALE 1:24 OTHER:		1:62.5				QUAD NAME State Bridge				

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

Pin-connected, 6-panel timber/wrought iron Howe through truss

span number:	2 (original) 1 (present)	end/top chrd:	11x11 1/2 timber
span length:	100'0"	bottom chord:	11x11 1/2 timber
overall length:	204'0" (orig.) 102' (present)	vertical:	2 round iron rods
overall height:	21'5"	diagonal:	9x10 timber; 6x7 1/2 timber
clearance hgt.:	13'2"	flr./decking:	timber decking and stringers w/ 16x16 wood floor beams
roadway width:	16'0"	substructure:	stone wingwalls w/ solid stone pier (parged w/ concrete)

The Colorado State Legislature in 1889 appropriated \$6000 for construction of a wagon bridge - its third ever - over the Grand (Colorado) River on the existing road at McCoy's Ferry. When the road was found unfit for heavy loads the site was moved 7 miles upriver, and the adjacent counties built new roads to it. After the initial bidding was rejected, the project was rebid in February 1890. The construction contract was awarded to the Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Works of Leavenworth, Kansas, low bidder among seven respondents at \$5190. Using wrought iron and native timbers, the company completed this two-span Howe truss in October. It formed a pivotal crossing over the Grand until the highway was realigned over a new bridge; it now stands abandoned with the span over the main channel removed.

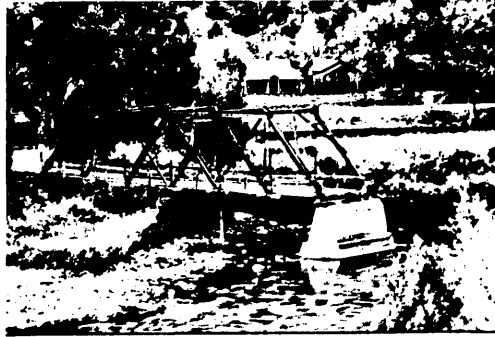
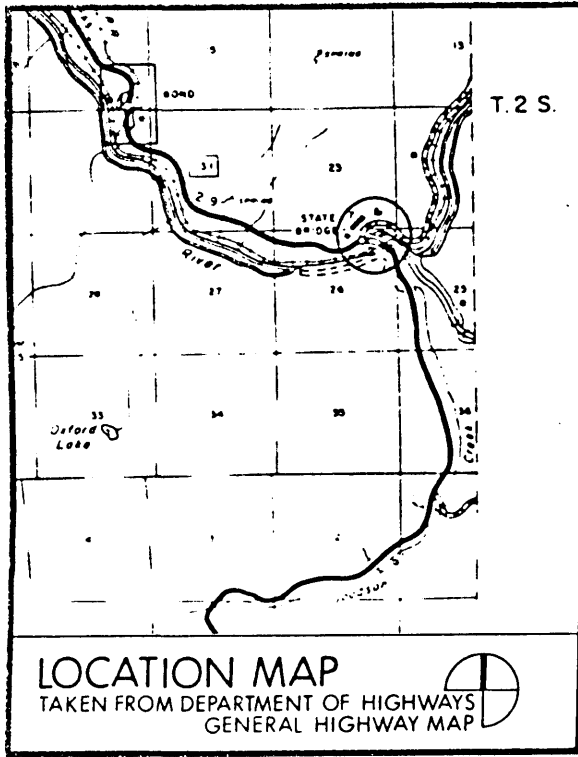
14. CONDITION  EXCELLENT  GOOD  FAIR  DETERIORATED  RUINS

15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT)  YES  NO  UNKNOWN

16. SIGNIFICANCE AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Engineering and Transportation LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State

Historically, the State Bridge is significant as a pivotal span over the Grand River, important in the development of the North Park and Yampa Valley regions in northwestern Colorado as the only all-season artery from the rest of the state. Only the third bridge designed and erected for the State Engineer, it is the oldest remaining and is one of the oldest vehicular bridges in Colorado. Technologically, it is important as the last example known in the state of a once common, later archaic truss type - the Howe through truss comprised of heavy timber compression members and wrought iron tension rods. The bridge is unusual in its lateral bracing of the top chord: a three-dimensional A-frame is fastened on the mid-span panel point. Though only one of the original two spans is left, the State Bridge is one of Colorado's most significant spans.

17. PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



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

5th Biennial Report of the State Engineer, Colorado: 1889-1890. Denver, Colorado: Collier and Cleaveland Lithograph Company, 1891. pages 588-590.

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

Routt County Commissioners' Minutes: 2 April 1900 (Book 2, page 227). Routt County Courthouse, Steamboat Springs Colorado.

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

Eagle County Commissioners' Minutes: 7 April 1890 (Book 3, page 297), 9 August 1890 (Book 3, page 318), 6 October 1890 (Book 3, page 322), 8 November 1890 (Book 3, page 329). Eagle County Courthouse, Eagle Colorado.

22. INVENTORIED BY

Clayton Fraser and Carl Hallberg

AFFILIATION

Fraserdesign Loveland Colorado

DATE

30 December 1983