

Roubideau Bridge
Spanning the Gunnison River at County Road G50R
Delta Vicinity
Delta County
Colorado

HAER No. CO-70

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15-DELT.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Roubideau Bridge

HAER No. CO-70

Location: Spanning the Gunnison River at County Road G50R, 3.9 miles west of Delta (SE1/4 S16, T15S, R96W)
Delta Vicinity, Delta County, Colorado

UTM: 12 750525.4292720
Quad: Delta

Date of Construction: 1911

Designer: Colorado State Engineer's Office

Builder: Pueblo Bridge Company

Present Owner: Delta County
Delta County Courthouse
5th and Palmer
Delta, Colorado 81416

Original Use: Roadway bridge

Present Use: Roadway Bridge

Significance: The Roubideau Bridge is significant as a locally important crossing of the Gunnison River, as a technologically interesting roadway truss bridge type, and as one of several bridges in Colorado erected by the state's pre-eminent early bridge contractor.

HISTORY

Besieged with citizens' petitions for bridges at Paonia, Hotchkiss, Appleton and Roubideau in 1909, the Delta County Board of Commissioners immediately began consideration of a bridge over the Gunnison River near the Roubideau switch of the D&RG Railroad. After nearly two years of discussion and visits to the site, the State Legislature appropriated \$3,750 towards construction of the bridge, and the State Engineer prepared plans and specifications for it. The construction contract was awarded to the Pueblo Bridge Company, the state's most prolific bridge builder, early in 1911. Using steel components forged by Lackawanna and manufactured by the Milwaukee Bridge Company, Pueblo Bridge Company completed this long-span Warren truss by September. The bridge has remained in place, unaltered and in good condition.

DESCRIPTION

The truss, drawn by the State Engineer's office, was a standard-design double-intersected Warren, identical to the bridges being built at the same time at Una, Lacy, and Alamosa. How the design was changed to the configuration that was built is unclear; perhaps the new design came from Fred Bullen's Pueblo Bridge Company, which regularly submitted alternate plans during bidding. A somewhat esoteric variation on the basic Warren truss form, it was not reproduced in through truss form and is unique in the survey.

Physical dimensions

Rigid-connected, 12-panel steel Warren through truss with polygonal top chord and alternating verticals.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Span number: | 1 | End/top chord: | 2 channels w/cover plate and lacing |
| Span length: | 192' 2" | Bottom chord: | 2 angles w/batten plates |
| Overall length: | 194' 0" | Vertical: | 2 angles w/batten plates |
| Overall height: | 23' 1" | Diagonal: | 2 channels w/lacing; 4 angles w/batten plates |
| Clearance height: | 13' 1" | Floor/decking: | asphalt over timber deck w/timber stringers |
| Roadway width: | 15' 1" | Substructure: | concrete wingwalls; concrete abutment w/timber wings |

REFERENCES

Structure Inventory and Appraisal: DELG5OR-2.2-11. Colorado Department of Highways, Denver, Colorado.

Delta County Commissioners' Minutes: January 9, 1909 (Book 2, pg. 356), April 20, 1909 (Book 2, pg. 405), April 21, 1909 (Book 2, pg. 407), September 7, 1909 (Book 2, pg. 431), January 26, 1910 (Book 2, pg. 467), March 1, 1910 (Book 2, pg. 486), October 4, 1910 (Book 2, pg. 517), November 26, 1910 (Book 2, pg. 525), February 27, 1911 (Book 2, pg. 543), March 7, 1911 (Book 2, pg. 545). Delta County Courthouse, Delta, Colorado.

16th Biennial Report of the State Engineer, Colorado: 1911-1912, Denver, Colorado: Smith-Brooks Printing Company, 1913, pg. 109.

Vertical files of State Engineer: Delta County Bridge, J-4-B. Colorado Department of Highways, Denver, Colorado.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser and Susan Cason, November 17, 1983.