

**Colorado Historic Highway Inventory - Historical Summary and Evaluation of Significance**

**Highway Name:** State Highway (SH) 110

**CDOT Route Nos. and Milepost (MP) Limits:**

<i>CDOT Route</i>	<i>Route Description</i>
110A	From US 550-B West of Silverton East and North To Maintenance Yard Service Rd

**Highway Location:**

Counties: San Juan  
 Length (Miles): 0.186

**OAHP Site Numbers (for previously recorded segments, if applicable)\*:**

<i>OAHP Site No.</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Assessment Date</i>	<i>Site Name</i>
5SA.113.4	Supports eligibility of entire linear resource>106 - Officially eligible>Field eligible	02/03/2010>10/02/2006>08/22/2006	U.S. HIGHWAY 550

**Discussion of Site Forms (for previously recorded segments, if applicable):**

Two Colorado Cultural Resources Inventory forms for previously recorded segments of this highway, 5SA.113.4 (U.S. Highway [US] 550) and 5SA.59 (Silverton Historic District), were identified in Compass. 5SA.113.4 (US 550) was officially determined eligible in 2006 and determined to support eligibility of the entire linear resource in 2010, but is a segment of US 550 that does not appear to correspond to current SH 110.

SH 110 also extends through the Silverton Historic District (5SA.59), which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) in 1966. Silverton is also a National Historic Landmark (NHL) that encompasses the entire town of Silverton and was designated a NHL in 1961. SH 110 serves as the main commercial street through the NHL and the National Register historic district.

**Historic Districts located within 250 feet of highway (OAHP Site Number and Name)\*:**

<i>OAHP Site No.</i>	<i>District Name</i>	<i>Assessment (If Applicable)</i>
None	No historic districts are found on or adjacent to this highway	

*\*Information based on data from Compass provided by OAHP*

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### **Historical Data:**

SH 110 is less than one mile in length and extends from US 550 through Silverton comprising its main thoroughfare, Greene Street. Southwestern Colorado is a mountainous region that owes much of its history to mining, including the town of Silverton. The Colorado Gold Rush of 1859 brought an influx of people to Colorado's southwestern region in search of fortune and led to the establishment of mining camps through the area to supply activities at the mines and those working in the mines. Silverton began as a mining camp and supply center for area mines. Silverton was established in 1874 and boomed throughout the 1880s after silver deposits were discovered in nearby hills. The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad reached Silverton from Durango in 1882 and by 1883 the town had 2,000 residents and 400 buildings. Gold, silver, lead, and zinc were mined at various periods throughout the region. (Colorado State Planning Commission 1941: 141; Ubbelohde et al 2006: 175-177; Silverton Area Chamber of Commerce 2016). The current route of SH 110 follows Greene Street through downtown Silverton. Greene Street was established shortly after Silverton was laid out in 1874. Historic state highway maps indicate that SH 110 was designated by 1926, followed the route of Greene Street in Silverton, and extended to the northeast to Howardsville. By 1934 the road was extended further northeast to Eureka providing connections to area mining activities. According to Salek, a portion of the road north of Silverton was rerouted in 1961 and extended approximately eight miles north along Cement Creek to Gladstone. A spur of SH 110 extended for approximately two miles north of town to a mining structure in 1963. The majority of SH 110 was turned back in 2003 to its current limits.

(Unless otherwise indicated, sources used in the preparation of this section included state highway maps, the Highways of Colorado by Matthew Salek, Highways to the Sky: A Context and History of Colorado's Highway System, Colorado State Roads and Highways, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission, plans in the Online Transportation Information System (OTIS), and site forms for previously surveyed resources in Compass when available.)

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**Not Significant - No historical significance identified**

**Significant - Historical significance identified (see details below)**

**Property Type and Areas of Significance:**

A detailed explanation why this highway possesses historical significance is provided in the Significance Statement below.

**Cultural:**

Criterion A specific requirements

- Early and/or prominent project of the Colorado Highway Department (Transportation)
- Association with a significant event (If applicable, the Area of Significance is indicated in the statement of significance below)
- Association with federal work relief programs (Politics/Government)

Criterion C specific requirements

- Representative example (Transportation)

**Engineering:**

Subtypes

- Farm-to-Market Road
- Limited Access, Multiple-Lane, Divided Highway/Freeway
- Highway Bypass

Criterion A specific requirements

- Early and/or prominent project of the Colorado Highway Department (Transportation)
- Association with a significant event (If applicable, the Area of Significance is indicated in the statement of significance below)
- Association with federal work relief programs (Politics/Government)

Criterion C specific requirements

- Representative example (Transportation)
- Engineering achievement (Engineering)

**Aesthetic:**

Criterion A specific requirements

- Early and/or prominent project of the Colorado Highway Department (Transportation)
- Association with a significant event (If applicable, the Area of Significance is indicated in the statement of significance below)
- Association with federal work relief programs (Politics/Government)

Criterion C specific requirements

- Representative example (Transportation)
- Engineering achievement (Engineering)
- Landscape architecture (Landscape Architecture)

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### Historic periods of highway construction:

- Pre-territorial (pre-1861)
- Territorial and pre-automobile state roads (1861-1890)
- Automobile age (1890-1930)
- Depression and World War II (1930-1945)
- Postwar Interstate Era (1945-1973)
- Completion and Augmentation of Interstate System (1973-2000)

### Level of Significance:

- Local
- State
- National

### Significance Statement:

SH 110 is classified as an Engineered Route under the classification system in the MPS.

#### *Criterion A*

SH 110 was designated by 1926 and while not considered an early or prominent project by the Colorado Highway Department, the corridor followed by SH 110 through the town of Silverton coincides with Greene Street, the main thoroughfare through the Silverton National Historic Landmark District/National Register-listed historic district. Greene Street (SH 110) served as the main commercial street in Silverton since its establishment in the 1870s. As such, SH 110 possesses significance under Criterion A in the areas of Transportation and Commerce for its role in the development of the area's mining activities and likely contributes to the historic significance of the historic districts in which it passes at the state and national levels. No evidence indicated that the route was built or improved as part of a Depression-era federal relief project.

#### *Criterion B*

Research did not reveal this highway to be directly associated with the events or work of a person important in history, nor does research indicate the highway represents the efforts of a specific individual to secure construction of this highway for the economic development of a community or area of the state. Therefore, this highway does not possess significance under Criterion B.

#### *Criterion C*

Research and literature review yielded no evidence to indicate the use of innovative or important engineering techniques that serve to distinguish this highway from other roads within mountainous areas of the state. The highway's design and construction appear to have utilized techniques common to other roads in mountainous areas. Overall this highway appears to reflect the standard types of design and construction practices and it does not appear to possess significance under Criterion C.

#### *Criterion D*

For a property to possess significance for information potential, the information yielded by the property must answer specific important research questions that cannot be otherwise answered. The technology of highway construction is well understood and documented. As such, this highway is unlikely to yield important information that cannot be discerned from archived plans and other records. Therefore, this highway does not possess significance under Criterion D.

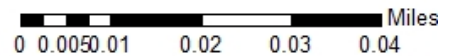
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- SH 110
- County Boundary

SH 110



Map indicates the extent of the highway based on CDOT GIS data; portions co-signed with other highways may not be indicated.