

Colorado Historic Highway Inventory - Historical Summary and Evaluation of Significance

Highway Name: State Highway (SH) 100

CDOT Route Nos. and Milepost (MP) Limits:

<i>CDOT Route</i>	<i>Route Description</i>
100A	From SH 160-C North of Vilas To Main St in Vilas

Highway Location:

Counties: Baca
Length (Miles): 0.426

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>
None	No previously recorded segments are found on or adjacent to this highway		

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

No Colorado Cultural Resources Inventory forms for previously recorded segments of this highway were identified in Compass.

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 100 is approximately one mile in length and has historically functioned as a spur connecting the town of Vilas to U.S. Highway (US) 160 in Baca County. The town of Vilas was incorporated in 1887 with a population of 750 and numerous businesses. Vilas was known as the “Broomcorn Capitol of Colorado” and after a period of decline in the early decades of the twentieth century the small agricultural town experienced a short revival that was due, in part, to its location along the route of the Dallas-Canadian-Denver (DCD) Highway. (Colorado Preservation, Inc.: 2015) In 1919 state highway mapping shows the Dallas-Canadian-Denver (DCD) Highway, a north-south route stretching for hundreds of miles between Texas and Denver, following a stair-step pattern west from the Kansas border through Baca County. In Baca County, the DCD Highway passed through Stonington and Vilas, travelling north and south along present-day County Road 36 and SH 100 before turning west at the intersection with current US 160, and then north through Springfield and on to Lamar and into Denver. The DCD Highway was a regionally important named highway formed as a result of the Good Roads Movement to improve local roads. Named highways of the Good Roads Movement, such as the DCD Highway, utilized a network of preexisting local and state roads to provide regional connectivity as prominent transportation corridors. The Good Roads Movement resulted in the promotion and improvement of many of the roads that comprised the route and were precursors to the development of the system of state and U.S. highways.

Historic highway maps show that SH 100, as it was originally designated in 1926, comprised a longer east-west route extending across much of southeastern Colorado and was subsequently designated US 160 and was not historically part of the current SH 100. Between approximately 1940 and 1952 state highway maps show the current SH 100 was previously designated SH 197 at which time it was graded with a gravel and dirt surface and operated as a short spur connecting to US 160 at its northern terminus. By 1955 this one-mile length of road connected to present-day County Road 36 at Vilas and extended south, connecting to other local county roads. Historic highway maps indicate designation of this one mile stretch of road as SH 100 in 1965 at which time it was a two-lane paved roadway.

SH 100 is a one mile local connector road located in southeastern Colorado. Historically, the trails, highways, and rural roads that made up the transportation network in southeastern Colorado facilitated travel through this sparsely-populated region and also made possible the transfer and distribution of the region’s agricultural products.

The Santa Fe Trail (roughly following US 50) was the earliest major east-west route through this region and remained as such until approximately 1926 when former SH 100 (current US 160), the second major east-west route, was designated and provided access to previously remote areas in the far southeastern corner of the state. The corridors that follow present-day US 287, US 350 and US 385 were the major north-south arteries in this region.

The current route SH 100 was developed as one of several rural regional connector roads providing access to other roads to the north and south of Vilas. Research and review of historic mapping does not indicate that SH 100 served as regional corridor, a farm-to-market road or provided direct access to destinations related to important historic themes such as industry, or commerce. Historically, the road segment currently designated as SH 100 together with other local and state roads formed a portion of the DCD Highway and subsequently served as one of numerous local connector roads within southeastern Colorado’s transportation network.

(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 100 is classified as an Engineered Route under the classification system in the MPS.

Criterion A

Research did not indicate that this highway is an example of an early or prominent project by the Colorado Highway Department (CHD), was built or improved as part of a federal relief project, or constructed as a farm-to-market road providing access between an important agricultural region and its market. Present-day SH 100 is a local connector road less than one mile in length that served to provide local access between the town of Vilas and US 160. While the highway segment currently extends one mile and did not singularly provide a connection to destinations related to important historic themes, together with other local and state roads SH 100 carried the DCD Highway through southeastern Colorado. Its role as a component of this named highway associated with the Good Roads Movement made it a contributing component of an important route that served as a popular route across Colorado during the first decades of the twentieth century prior to the establishment of the Colorado Highway Department. As such, SH 100 possesses significance under Criterion A in the area of Transportation at the local level for its role in providing important regional connections in the early decades of highway development in Colorado.

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

This highway is not considered to be an early or prominent project of the CHD. Research and literature review yielded no evidence to indicate the use of innovative or important engineering, design, or construction techniques that serve to distinguish this highway from other roads and the roadway does not appear to exhibit important engineering innovations or important later modifications. The highway's design and construction appear to fall within the established standard practices of state highway design and construction of the time and the highway does not possess significance under Criterion C.

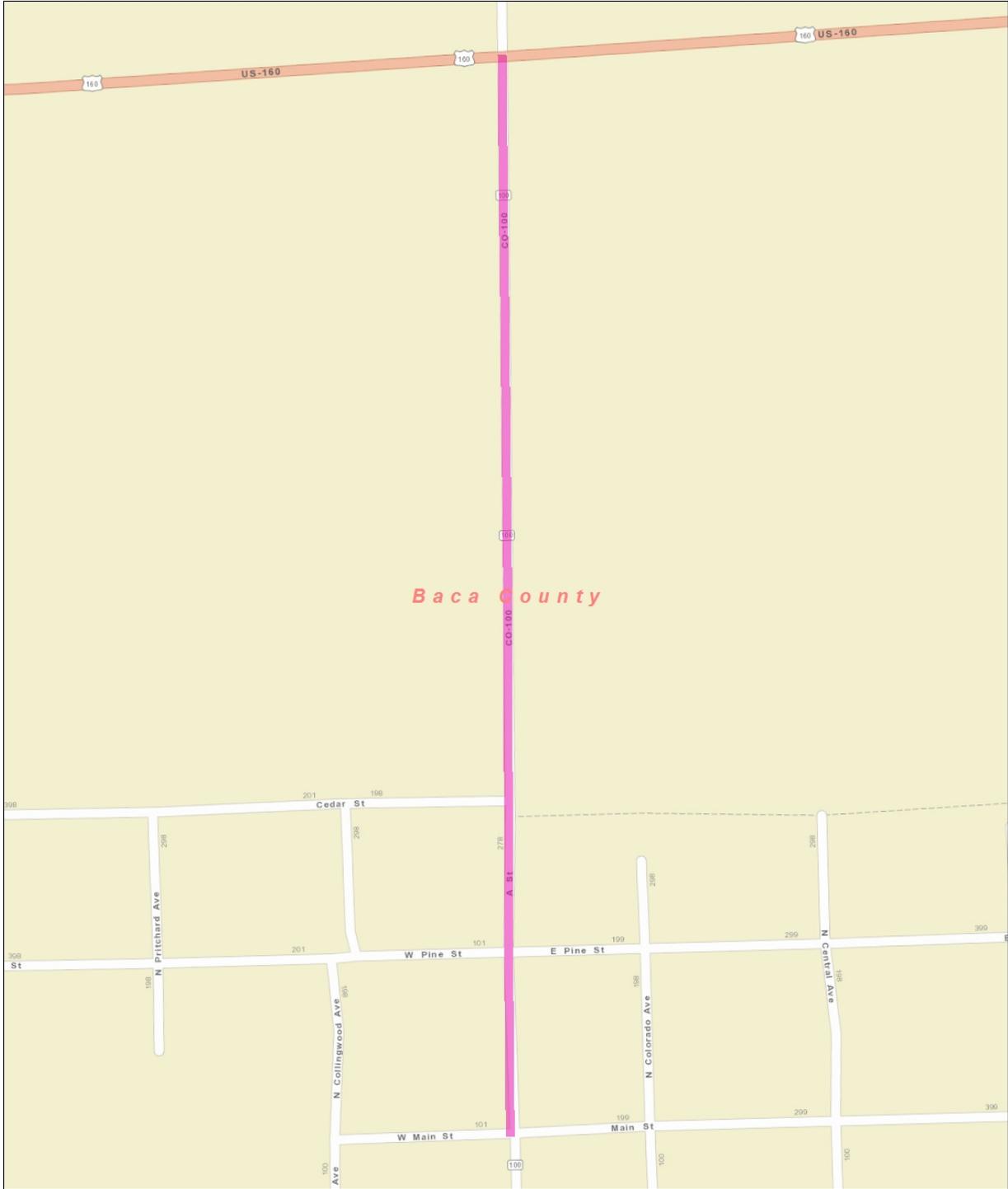
Criterion D

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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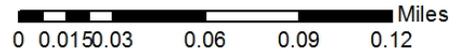
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- SH 100
- County Boundary



SH 100



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