

Colorado Historic Highway Inventory - Historical Summary and Evaluation of Significance

Highway Name: State Highway (SH) 10

CDOT Route Nos. and Milepost (MP) Limits:

<i>CDOT Route</i>	<i>Route Description</i>
010A	From I 25-A and SH 160-B east of Walsenburg northeast To SH 50-B in La Junta

Highway Location:

Counties: Huerfano, Las Animas, Otero, Pueblo
Length (Miles): 71.758

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 (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*

Colorado Historic Highway Inventory - Historical Summary and Evaluation of Significance

Highway Name: State Highway (SH) 10

Historical Data:

SH 10 is approximately 72 miles long and extends between U.S. Highway (US) 50 on the west side of La Junta and Interstate Highway 25 at Walsenburg in southeastern Colorado. The highway passes through a rural area surrounded by crops and pasture.

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. Settlement in this part of the state occurred in the early 1800s in part as a result of regional trade along the Santa Fe and Cherokee Trails, whose routes generally followed the Arkansas River Valley and subsequently formed portions of the route of present-day US 50. The Santa Fe Trail was the earliest major east-west route through this region and remained as such until the 1920s when highways such as former SH 100 (current US 160) and present-day US 287, US 350 and US 385, the major north-south arteries in this region, provided access to previously remote areas in the far southeastern corner of the state.

Southeastern Colorado boasted the largest cattle industry in the state during the late nineteenth century. Due to the arid climate, in the late nineteenth and twentieth century irrigation canals were constructed in the region to facilitate agriculture that included wheat, hay, oats, corn, sugar beets, watermelon, cantaloupe, and other crops. The entry of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad into Colorado during the late nineteenth century resulted in the settlement and growth of additional towns like La Junta, Las Animas, Lamar, Granada, and Holly, which prospered by providing a direct link for conveying commercial and agricultural goods between towns and larger markets. Walsenburg, established in 1873 and located along the eastern slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Huerfano County, was one of Colorado's primary sources for coal after the 1880s. By the 1940s, the agricultural areas surrounding Walsenburg produced large crops of beans, wheat, hay, and corn and sustained herds of cattle and sheep. During the early twentieth century, farm-to-market roads were constructed to link rural areas with larger regional market centers. Walsenburg and La Junta both served as important trade and shipping centers for agricultural and industrial products within the region. SH 10 served as a direct route between these two commercial centers and also linked more remote areas to these markets beginning in the mid-twentieth century (Noel et al 1994: 25, 29; Wyckoff 1999: 167-170; Colorado State Planning Commission 1941: 306, 374).

Historic state highway maps indicate that SH 10 was originally a cross-state route, that extended east from Dove Creek near the Utah border to Walsenburg. This road was constructed in the 1920s and was designated SH 10 by 1926. The route was also co-signed with US Highways 160 and 450 along certain portions. The segment between Walsenburg and La Junta, which corresponds to the current extent of the highway, was added by 1936. The entire segment west of Walsenburg was eliminated in 1968.

(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.)

**Information based on data from Compass provided by OAHF*

Colorado Historic Highway Inventory - Historical Summary and Evaluation of Significance

Highway Name: State Highway (SH) 10

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)

**Information based on data from Compass provided by OAHF*

Colorado Historic Highway Inventory - Historical Summary and Evaluation of Significance

Highway Name: State Highway (SH) 10

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 10 is classified 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) or was built or improved as part of a federal relief project. SH 10 once extended across nearly the entire state and served as an important east-west transportation corridor in southern Colorado. Although the highway now only extends between Walsenburg and La Junta, it once extended west of Walsenburg and provided direct connectivity as a farm-to-market road to regional centers of trade in southern Colorado, including the San Luis Valley. As such, it possesses significance in the area of Transportation at the local level due to its role in the transfer of agricultural goods as a farm-to-market road. In addition, its direct connection to and from Walsenburg served an important role in the distribution of coal throughout the region from the extensive southern coal fields that stretched from Walsenburg south to Trinidad. Therefore, SH 10 is also significant under Criterion A under Industry at the local level for its association with mining by providing direct and important access to markets.

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 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.

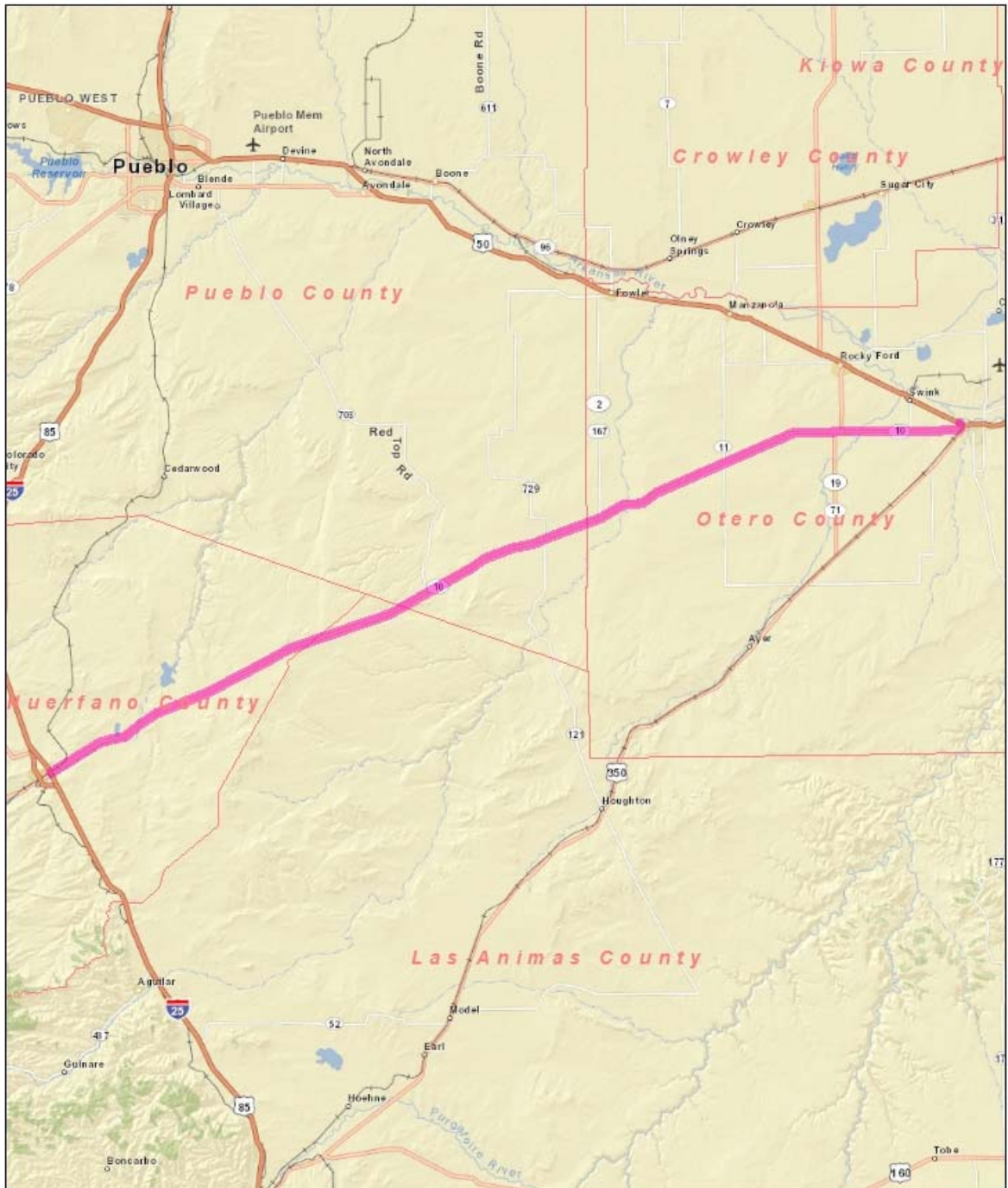
Criterion D

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.

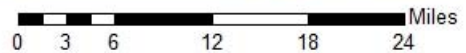
**Information based on data from Compass provided by OAHF*

Colorado Historic Highway Inventory - Historical Summary and Evaluation of Significance

Highway Name: State Highway (SH) 10



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, P.C., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013



- SH 10
- County Boundary

SH 10

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