

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Pedro-Botz House
other names/site number 5CF.2900

2. Location

street & number 7467 County Road 150 (west parcel) N/A not for publication
city or town Salida X vicinity
state Colorado Code CO county Chaffee code 015 zip code 81201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
national statewide X local

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History
Colorado
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official Date
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
other (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Pedro-Botz House  
Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public – Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
2	0	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)  
N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE/Animal Facility

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VACANT/Not in Use

DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)  
LATE VICTORIAN

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)  
foundation: STONE  
walls: WOOD/log  
roof: WOOD/Shingles  
other: WOOD/Shingles

Pedro-Botz House

Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado

County and State

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

#### Summary

The Pedro-Botz House is located in a historic industrial workers' community known as Smelertown, which developed in association with the operation of an ore processing plant northwest of Salida, the Chaffee County seat in central Colorado. The house displays an unusual combination of traditional log dwelling design embellished with a few Late Victorian architectural flourishes, including decorative shingles on the gable face and a front porch with turned wood spindle supports and a decorative frieze (Photograph 1). A historic frame chicken coop is located northeast of the house. Situated on a 225'-deep level parcel covering 0.29 acres, the house is flanked by other dwellings and faces County Road 150 to the south with a wide gravel-surfaced area between the fenced yard and the road. The Arkansas River flows further south on the opposite side of the road, and the Collegiate Range is visible to the west. The tall smokestack of the Ohio and Colorado Smelter (5CF.143, NRIS 76000548, listed in National Register 11 January 1976) dominates the skyline to the northwest. The property, which displays a high level of historic integrity, includes two contributing buildings: the house and the chicken coop. The period of significance extends from 1904 to 1965 in the area of Ethnic Heritage/European and 1904 in the area of Architecture.

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### Elaboration

#### Overview

The Pedro-Botz House is located near the south end of the deep parcel with the chicken coop to the northeast. The surface of the front yard displays mostly bare earth, cinders, pebbles, and rocks, with a few patches of grass. A wood picket fence borders the yard on the south, with a section of chain link at its east end and along the east edge of the property. A curving walkway surfaced with small river rocks and pebbles is bordered by small boulders and leads from a gate in the fence to the porch of the house. The base of the porch is covered with Virginia creeper. An American elm tree in the front yard is encircled by boulders at its base. A large rectangular area, probably a driveway, is bordered with small boulders at the southeastern corner of the parcel. The yard east of the house has bare earth, small pebbles, cinders, rocks, and small pieces of wood shingles. A path lined by river rock extends from the rear porch to a boarded up door on the east. An area of grass at the rear (north) is intersected by a short concrete sidewalk leading to the rear porch; there is a hollyhock growing next to the east wall of the porch. The large rear yard contains the chicken coop and piles of boulders, river rocks, wood, brush, and building materials; a piece of purple glass was observed on the ground in 2014. A woven wire and board fence runs along the west boundary.<sup>1</sup>

#### Contributing Resources

The nominated area contains two resources, the house and chicken coop, both of which are assessed as contributing.

#### *House, 1904<sup>2</sup>, building (Photographs 2 through 6)*

The small one-story front-gabled roof dwelling (Resource 1) is rectangular (37' x 17') and faces south toward the county road, the Arkansas River, and distant mountains. The foundation consists of pieces of stone rubble and concrete. The walls are composed of round logs with daubing, and the corners display vertical planks at

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<sup>1</sup> The Pedro-Botz House is very likely also eligible under Criterion D, but additional investigation beyond the scope of this nomination preparation is needed. No surveys focused on historic archaeology have been conducted, but archaeological potential may reside in identification of discrete features, such as former privy pits or trash middens, and artifacts related to ethnicity and assimilation, in particular frugality and recycling. Such potential should be considered when planning future ground-disturbing activities within the area.

<sup>2</sup> The date of construction for the house is based on the date when Stephen Pedro purchased the land (according to County Clerk and Recorder records) and the fact that he was listed in the Salida City Directory the following year.

**Pedro-Botz House**

Name of Property

**Chaffee, Colorado**

County and State

the corners (no notching is visible). A plank at the southeast corner is inscribed with the initials "F.B." (Photograph 2). Most windows are tall double-hung sash with plain wood surrounds. The front (south) features a projecting full-width shed roof porch with panels of decorative shingles on the east and west below the eaves (Photograph 3). The somewhat deteriorated porch displays decorative scalloped molding on the frieze, full-height turned wood spindle supports, and a wood deck atop pieces of stone and brick. A vertical piece of rusted corrugated metal partially encloses the east end of the porch.

The symmetrical façade contains a central paneled wood door with a plain wood screen door flanked on each side by single tall one-over-one-light double-hung sash wood windows with plain wood surrounds. The front gable face is clad with three different shapes of decorative shingles. The roof displays wood shingles and slightly overhanging eaves.

The long east wall is log and is blank at the south end (Photograph 4). Toward the north end are a boarded up entrance and a boarded up window. A hatch accessing a root cellar lies under the window. The rear (north) wall has a projecting one-story full-width hipped-roof enclosed porch in front of the log wall (Photograph 5). The east wall of the porch displays vertical board walls and a fixed twelve-light wood window. The north wall has two four-part screens at the east end. A slightly off-center entrance has a screen door. The west end of the north wall of the porch is clad with vertical boards. The north gable face of the house displays drop siding and has a central opening enclosed with drop siding. The west log wall of the house has a single boarded up window toward the north end (Photograph 6). There is a short red brick chimney with a wood collar on the west roof slope.

*Interior.* The owner describes the interior of the house as having two rooms with bead board ceilings. The house has no fireplace, but is heated by a coal-burning stove. There is no upstairs living space.<sup>3</sup>

*Alterations.* The house has few alterations and those are minor, most due to deterioration of materials. The east and rear door and windows on the east and west are boarded up. Originally, the chimney was taller and had a corbelled top; it is now shorter and has a plain top with a wood collar. Some elements, such as trim on the porch, are deteriorating.

**Chicken Coop, ca. 1904<sup>4</sup>, building (Photographs 7 and 8)**

The rectangular chicken coop sits well back on the long lot at its eastern edge and faces south within an area enclosed with a combination of woven wire and chain link fencing with wood posts. The walls consist of vertical boards, except for a horizontal board rear wall. The south wall contains an off-center boarded-up entrance and a wood multi-light fixed window to the west (partially boarded up). The shed roof is clad with metal and has overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails.

**INTEGRITY**

Although somewhat deteriorated, this dwelling is one of the most intact remaining in Smelertown and displays a high degree of historic physical integrity. The house retains its original location on a long, narrow lot east of the smelter company's property. The setting remains essentially as it was historically, with other Smelertown houses flanking the dwelling; the county road, river, and distant mountains to the south; and farmland north of the property. The smelter smokestack is still visible from the site. The house is unaltered from its original design, materials, and workmanship. These elements of the house's integrity are significant as they reflect the fairly unusual combination of log and Late Victorian construction, the skills of the builder, and the use of some native materials. Some minor changes are the result of the deterioration of the wood trim and chimney. Doors and windows are boarded up to protect the vacant house. The house conveys its original feeling as the small dwelling of an early-twentieth-century employee of the smelter who used inexpensive native materials in combination with a few ornamental features to create a house within his budget. The house also retains integrity of association as a direct link with the lives of the smelter workers who lived in this small community known as Smelertown. There are only a few intact examples of worker housing associated with the smelter remaining, thus increasing the significance of this property.

<sup>3</sup> David E. Earl, Salida, Colorado, Telephone Interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 27 August 2014.

<sup>4</sup> The approximate date for the chicken coop is based on the assumption that the family began raising chickens as soon as the house was built.

**Pedro-Botz House**  
Name of Property

**Chaffee, Colorado**  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

ETHNIC HERITAGE/European

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ARCHITECTURE

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**Period of Significance**

1904-65 (Ethnic Heritage/European)

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1904 (Architecture)

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**Significant Dates**

N/A

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**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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**Architect/Builder**

N/A

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**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)  
Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance Within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance extends from 1904 (the estimated year the house was built) through 1965 (a date fifty years before the present in accord with National Register practice when there is no more appropriate date). Various members of the Pedro and Botz families resided there throughout the period.

**Criteria Considerations (justification)**

None.

Pedro-Botz House

Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado

County and State

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### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

#### **Summary**

The Pedro-Botz House, in an area known as Smelertown near Salida, Colorado, possesses a local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage/European, having been built by Hungarian immigrants Stephen and Annie Pedro as their family home and for its subsequent long association with the family of Yugoslavian immigrants Frank and Josephine Botz. Smelertown, where employees of the Ohio and Colorado Smelter lived in close proximity to their place of work, housed large numbers of immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire after it opened in 1902, and many of the workers preserved their ethnic heritage and traditions in their new country. The house is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its representation of the modest dwellings constructed in Smelertown and for its log construction displaying Late Victorian-style ornamentation. The period of significance is 1904-65 in the area of Ethnic Heritage/European, representing the beginning of occupation by the first owners, the Pedro family, and extending to a date fifty years from the present, as no other date more appropriately ends the period. In the area of Architecture, the period of significance is the year 1904, when the house was built.

#### **Elaboration**

##### **Criterion A**

The modest log house with Late Victorian ornamentation is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage/European for its association with the historic Smelertown community whose residents worked for the nearby Ohio and Colorado Smelting and Refining Company northwest of Salida. The house was owned and occupied by smelter employees of Hungarian and Yugoslavian descent, who along with others from the Austro-Hungarian Empire comprised a large percentage of the company's workers. Members of the Pedro (1905-12) and Botz (1912-79) families toiled at the smelter to make their American dreams a reality while maintaining or adapting elements of their original cultures. The dwelling's relationship to the industrial plant is part of the larger industrial landscape of the site conveying aspects of working class life, the immigrant experience, and the intersection of cultures. The period of significance is 1904-65 in the area of Ethnic Heritage/European, representing the beginning of occupation by the first owners, the Pedro family, and extending to a date fifty years from the present, as no other date more appropriately ends the period.

##### **Criterion C**

The house is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an example of the modest, small-scale dwellings built and owned by the smelter's workers. This house displays an interesting combination of early-twentieth-century log construction embellished with Late Victorian-style design elements, as reflected in the walls composed of round logs with daubing, gable face clad with three shapes of decorative shingles, and porch featuring decorative molding and turned wood spindle supports. It is the only log dwelling known to remain in Smelertown. In the area of Architecture, the period of significance is the year 1904, when the house was built.

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#### **Construction and Operation of the Smelter**

The Pedro-Botz House is part of a residential area northwest of Salida known as Smelertown, whose name comes from its close association with the Ohio and Colorado Smelting and Refining Company plant about one-half mile northwest of the house. The industrial enterprise originated in October 1901, when a combination of Leadville and Ohio capitalists incorporated the venture with capital stock of \$3 million. Construction of a complete smelting plant on 80 acres of land along the Arkansas River outside of Salida started at the end of the year. The New Monarch Mine at Leadville served as the principal supplier of ores for processing. The project received considerable attention due to the facility's immense size and the fact it was the only wholly

Pedro-Botz House

Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado

County and State

independent smelting concern in Colorado of sufficient substance to rival the powerful American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) at that time.<sup>5</sup>

The selection of a site in Chaffee County for construction of the smelter resulted from its excellent transportation access, availability of ore, and ready supplies of fuel. The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad mainline and a number of branch lines served Salida, giving the site access to coal from Crested Butte; the ores of the San Juan, old Monarch, and Leadville mining districts; and limestone from nearby Garfield and Monarch. Building a smelter near Salida enabled the company to transport fuel and ore downhill to the processing site and saved the expense of transporting supplies and ore all the way to the Colorado Front Range.<sup>6</sup> Historian James E. Fell Jr., author of *Ores to Metals: The Rocky Mountain Smelting Industry*, judged that erection of the facility at a key railroad junction in the mountains “reversed the long-term trend toward building major smelters on the plains.”<sup>7</sup> After expending \$1 million on construction, the Ohio and Colorado facility was blown in on 25 October 1902 “without any ceremony or flourish” and initiated general operations in November.<sup>8</sup> A new blast furnace was “blown in” by filling it with charcoal that was set on fire to dry it out and heat it up before ore processed. The blowing in was often an event for celebration, as it represented the beginning of a new industry and the associated jobs and wealth it would bring to the community. In the Ohio and Colorado’s case no ceremony marked the occasion other than the presence of the company’s board of directors and several of its eastern stockholders.

When completed, observers anticipated the smelter would be “of much importance for the various mining camps of the central and western part of Colorado.”<sup>9</sup> As small smelters were expensive to operate and low in yield, the Ohio and Colorado had built a major state-of-the-art plant with an initial four blast furnaces that could process 600 tons of silver-lead ore daily. In addition, the facility included two units to process 500 tons of copper-bearing rock each day.<sup>10</sup> The *Denver Times* reported the Ohio and Colorado would be one of the largest and most complete plants in the state, second in size only to the Arkansas Valley Smelter in Leadville.<sup>11</sup> The smelter operated round the clock, and its owners expected the eventual capacity would be 1,000 tons per day with 400 to 500 workers.<sup>12</sup>

At the end of 1902 the *Denver Post* reported the smelter included about 150 workers and already served as “an incentive to new vim in the Chaffee County mines.”<sup>13</sup> Despite its risky status as the only such enterprise in the state competing with ASARCO, the Ohio and Colorado quickly achieved success and began a series of expansions and improvements. Although the firm experienced a promising beginning, it could not avoid the labor unrest that faced the rest of the industry during the early twentieth century. During the summers, many furnace workers left Salida to work at facilities in cooler locations. In July 1903, the Ohio and Colorado experimented with an eight-hour-day for furnace men, but insisted upon reinstating a twelve-hour-day in the

<sup>5</sup> James E. Fell Jr., *Ores to Metals: The Rocky Mountain Smelting Industry* (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1979), 225 and 231; Virginia McConnell Simmons, *The Upper Arkansas: A Mountain River Valley* (Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Publishing Co., 1990), 239; *Denver Post*, 12 October and 29 November 1901. In 1899 successful Colorado entrepreneurs, including Dennis Sheedy, David Moffat, and James Grant, with the assistance of eastern capital, incorporated the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO). ASARCO’s holdings encompassed about two-thirds of the country’s smelting and refining capacity, with about half of the company’s plants in Colorado. In 1899 the first of a series of labor-management conflicts occurred that would impact the company for years to come. Beginning in 1900, ASARCO sought to consolidate its holdings and close excess facilities while continuing to maintain its hold on the industry.

<sup>6</sup> Dick Dixon, *Smokestack: The Story of the Salida Smelter*, (Salida, Colorado: Gold Belt Publishing Company, 1987); Fell, *Ores to Metals*, 268; and F.D. Weeks, “The Salida Smelter,” *Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers*, 1691.

<sup>7</sup> Fell, *Ores to Metals*, 267.

<sup>8</sup> *Rocky Mountain News*, 1 January 1903, 6.

<sup>9</sup> Etienne A. Ritter, “The New Smelter at Salida, Colorado,” *Engineering and Mining Journal*, 74(2 December 1902): 813.

<sup>10</sup> Ritter, “The New Smelter at Salida, Colorado,” 813.

<sup>11</sup> *Denver Times*, 1902.

<sup>12</sup> *Denver Post*, 31 December 1902 and 1 January 1903.

<sup>13</sup> *Denver Post*, 31 December 1902, 32.

Pedro-Botz House

Chaffee, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

fall.<sup>14</sup> Two-thirds of the smelter workers went on strike to protest the increased hours. During the action, production diminished, although small-scale roasting and smelting continued with nonunion workers. The walkout ended with the twelve-hour-day still in effect.<sup>15</sup>

The company intended to process all of the production of Leadville's New Monarch mines, in addition to ore from other mining districts. The New Monarch Mining Company sent its entire output to the facility. As the smelter expanded its operations, the New Monarch also increased its development of rich ore resources, investing in equipment and machinery that resulted in its producing about one-tenth of Leadville's total product.<sup>16</sup> Ore from Silver Cliff, Bonanza, and Leadville also was processed at the Salida smelter, as were smaller shipments from Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties. The erection of the smelter also stimulated a short revival of the old Monarch district.<sup>17</sup> With expansion of its processing facilities, the company widened its ore purchasing operations, procuring ore from the Coeur d'Alene district in Idaho and British Columbia.<sup>18</sup> James Fell observed many firms were willing to deal with the Salida company because they wished to keep a competitor of ASARCO in business.<sup>19</sup> An expansion in 1905 created a 1,100-ton daily capacity, and total value of the plant's production in that year approached \$1.5 million in gold, silver, lead, and copper. At the end of the year the Colorado Smelting Company acquired control of the smelter for \$2,125,000.<sup>20</sup>

The price of silver, lead, and copper declined in 1907, resulting in decreased smelter operations and lower returns until World War I. Efforts to increase profitability included continued improvement of the facility, with the most dramatic effort being construction of a 365' brick smokestack at the eastern end of the plant between June and November 1917. Built by the Rust Engineering Company, the stack was the third smokestack built at the smelter and required more than 264 standard railroad cars of bricks in its construction.<sup>21</sup> While the rationale advanced by the company for constructing the taller stack was to provide a better draft, the actual reason for its erection apparently was to better disperse the noxious fumes and gases emanating from the smelter.<sup>22</sup> The shorter stacks had deposited pollutants over nearby, downwind areas and caused damage to crops, livestock, and trees. For years the company paid damage claims and purchased pollution permits from local farmers and ranchers.<sup>23</sup>

While World War I brought increased demand for metals, prices failed to reach pre-1907 levels and declined again during the postwar adjustment. During the postwar recession, zinc residue production on which the smelter depended declined. Facing financial difficulties, a two-year lease of the plant to the American Metals Company was executed. According to a newspaper account, the Ohio and Colorado Smelting and Refining Company had been "losing heavily for several years and when its indebtedness came due, it was unable to meet obligations."<sup>24</sup> The lease arrangement failed to rescue the ailing smelter and the plant closed in January 1920.

Rumors and plans for the smelter's revival circulated, but the plant never reopened.<sup>25</sup> The owner was unable to pay a debt of more than \$1 million to the Denver National Bank and the property sold at sheriff's auction in October 1920 to Morse Brothers Machinery and Supply. Assisted by Bernstein Brothers Wrecking Company of Pueblo, Morse Brothers "stripped the smelter of most of its machinery, salvage and brick to pay for its

<sup>14</sup> *Rocky Mountain News*, 5 July 1903, 7.

<sup>15</sup> Fell, *Ores to Metals*, 270.

<sup>16</sup> Fell, *Ores to Metals*, 270.

<sup>17</sup> Fell, *Ores to Metals*, 269.

<sup>18</sup> Fell, *Ores to Metals*, 269.

<sup>19</sup> Fell, *Ores to Metals*, 270.

<sup>20</sup> *Denver Post*, 31 December 1905, 2.

<sup>21</sup> The smokestack, due to the vigorous efforts of the local Save Our Stack Committee, was saved from demolition in the mid-1970s and listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 11 January 1976 (NRIS number 76000548, 5CF.143).

<sup>22</sup> Other smelter operations built similar tall stacks in attempts to mitigate the damage caused by pollution they emitted.

<sup>23</sup> Dixon, *Smokestack*, 17-19

<sup>24</sup> Dixon, *Smokestack*, 16 and 25)

<sup>25</sup> Fell, *Ores to Metals*, 272.



Pedro-Botz House

Chaffee, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

investment.” Portions of the smelter site were leased or sold by Morse Brothers for other industrial applications, including creosoting lumber (1924-53) and mineral processing.<sup>26</sup>

### Smelter Workers and Their Community

The Ohio and Colorado smelter significantly boosted the economy of Salida, attracting hundreds of workers to its relatively well-paying jobs. When construction of the great smelter was announced, experienced men from other parts of the state and region moved to the Salida area seeking jobs at the new facility. Other businesses expanded their workforces as well: ore and bullion shipments stimulated railroad employment, providing jobs for 60 to 70 men who transferred ore between narrow and standard gauge cars in Salida. Smelter employment expanded to keep up with increased production capability and retracted during its decline. During prosperous times, the payroll of the smelter was as much as \$34,000 monthly. Wages of smelter workers boosted the local economy through their purchases of foodstuffs, supplies, services, and entertainment.<sup>27</sup>

Much of the smelter work involved transporting ore within the plant with a scoop shovel and wheelbarrow, processing and refining it to extract the valuable minerals, and maintaining equipment and machinery. The work is best described as dangerous and dirty. All laborers worked in a deafening environment that included a toxic haze of smoke, dust, and fumes, as well as the constant potential for injury from explosions, burns, scalding, acids, crushing by machines, and falls.<sup>28</sup> Each task embodied its own dangers. For example, furnace men who dealt with extreme heat, flames, and smoke also faced the danger of being scalded by molten metals. Local historians George Everett and Wendell Hutchinson noted that “a percentage of workers who breathed the smelter and roaster atmosphere developed an ailment referred to as being leaded; many never recovered.”<sup>29</sup> Being leaded probably referred to the inhaling of dust, fumes, and chemicals that sometimes led to lead poisoning, a potentially deadly disease. Daily pay for a typical smelter worker was \$2.50 to \$4.00.<sup>30</sup>

Much of the workforce at the smelter consisted of laborers from eastern and southern Europe, with the largest percentage being immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.<sup>31</sup> Toward the end of the nineteenth century immigration from northern and western Europe slowed, while the number of newcomers from Italy, Poland, Greece, Russia, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire increased dramatically, as did the total number of immigrants.<sup>32</sup> Examination of 1920 U.S. Census records for Smelertown indicate men identified as “Austrian” were the largest segment of the workforce and were dominant among those identified by the census as “laborers,” which typically included the dirtiest and most dangerous jobs.<sup>33</sup> Few Austrians worked in more specialized positions even by 1920. By that date, many of the Austrian immigrants owned their houses, were naturalized citizens or had submitted papers for citizenship, and could read and write. Men from Greece and Italy constituted smaller percentages of the workforce, with many of them also serving as laborers. Some, like foreman Joe Molinero from Italy and switchman Theodore Keller from Greece, possessed better jobs at the smelter; others worked for the railroad or owned farms. The small percentage of the smelter employees born in the United States often held more highly skilled and better paying jobs. For example, Vernon W. Fergus, a

<sup>26</sup> Dixon, *Smokestack*, 27-28 and 44.

<sup>27</sup> Dixon, *Smokestack*, 37; George Everett and Wendell Hutchinson, *Under the Angel of Shavano* (Denver: Golden Bell Press), 191.

<sup>28</sup> Patrick F. Morris, *Anaconda, Montana: Copper Smelting Boom Town on the Western Frontier* (Bethesda, Maryland: Swann Publishing, 1997), 184 and 186-187.

<sup>29</sup> Everett and Hutchinson, *Under the Angel of Shavano*, 193.

<sup>30</sup> Measuring Worth, “Relative Values, U.S.” [www.measuringworth.com](http://www.measuringworth.com), accessed 25 November 2014. Daily earnings of \$2.50 in 1902 was equal to about \$55.60 in 2013 dollars.

<sup>31</sup> After World War I the large Austro-Hungarian Empire was divided into Austria, Hungary, the Republic of Czechoslovakia, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, and Poland. Thus the Pedro and the Botz family immigrants were cited as “Austrian” in early twentieth century U.S. Censuses and as being from Hungary and Yugoslavia later.

<sup>32</sup> Morris, *Anaconda*, 222-223.

<sup>33</sup> Laborers generally performed the unskilled physical work at the smelter, as opposed to high-ranking positions such as mechanic, foreman, and millman.

Pedro-Botz House

Chaffee, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

smelter mechanic from Nebraska, lived in Smelertown with his uncle, Edward Crispell from Illinois, who served as a foreman at the plant.<sup>34</sup>

As was customary in the smelter industry, many Ohio and Colorado workers lived in houses near the plant in houses they rented or owned. In January 1902 the *Denver Post* announced creation of “a new town for Colorado,” a workers’ subdivision platted a half-mile east of the plant.<sup>35</sup> The town, named “Kortz” in honor of the smelter company’s president, was commonly referred to by the local community as “Smelertown.” Fifty modest houses were built in the immediate vicinity, while other smelter workers lived on nearby ranches or in Salida. To provide additional housing for smelter workers, Smelertown saloon and boarding house operator Louis Costello platted Costello’s Addition to Kortz. Many houses associated with the community are no longer extant. The remaining dwellings in Costello’s Addition do not reflect a unified style or design. Most are one story frame construction with gabled roofs; a few display some Late Victorian ornament. Among the dwellings built in Costello’s Addition was the nominated Pedro-Botz House, which is unusual in the area for its log construction.

The general population of Smelertown reflected the ethnic makeup of the smelter workers and included large numbers of “Austrians,” sizable groups from Italy and Greece, and a smaller number of men and women born in the United States. Few people from other countries lived in Smelertown. As Historian Laurie Mercier observed about such workers at the Anaconda Smelter in Montana, many of the immigrants initially planned to earn enough money to return to their native lands eventually.<sup>36</sup>

Smelertown grew to include commercial enterprises providing goods and services to the workers and their families, including saloons, boarding houses, grocery, and mercantile and general supply stores.<sup>37</sup> Residents often purchased milk, meat, and vegetables directly from local farmers, who also supplied food for the smelter’s workhorses.<sup>38</sup> Rich Shine provided labor on a farm while growing up and indicated a variety of animals, vegetables, and grains were grown in the area.<sup>39</sup> Some people provided services and goods from their homes, such as Henry Rosaglia, an Italian baker, and Rose Yanizick, a widow from Austria who worked as a laundress to support her six children aged one to eleven.<sup>40</sup>

The saloons provided a place for men to relax after work, talk with fellow smelter employees, and escape from their day-to-day responsibilities; they were among the earliest businesses in the community. J.J. O’Connor, Joseph Micklich, Nick Predovich, Louis Costello, Matt Mautz, and Ignatz Micklich operated saloons. All except Ignatz Micklich also owned boarding houses providing meals and lodging for men without families. Tom Greenan opened a saloon and pool hall, while Jake Pate and Jerry O’Connor operated boarding houses.<sup>41</sup> One large building provided lodging for Greek bachelors.<sup>42</sup> The establishments served as places for new immigrants to make connections with others from their native land, learn new customs, and discuss work. Since the community was not close to the Salida business district, a few enterprises offered items necessary for life in Smelertown. A later enterprise known as “Sam’s Club” provided a place for relaxation and social activities.<sup>43</sup>

To serve the educational needs of Smelertown children, a school was built between the plant and the residential area in 1903. The one-story frame building, formally known as the Kortz School, became part of

<sup>34</sup> U.S. Census, Kortz, Colorado, 1920.

<sup>35</sup> *Denver Post*, 24 January 1902, 12.

<sup>36</sup> Laurie Mercier, *Anaconda: Labor, Community and Culture in Montana’s Smelter City* (Chicago: University of Illinois, 2001), 23.

<sup>37</sup> Everett and Hutchinson, *Under the Angel of Shavano*, 191-92.

<sup>38</sup> Wendell Hutchinson, “Ohio-Colorado Smelting and Refining Company Smokestack,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination form, 76000548, listed 1976.

<sup>39</sup> Rich Shine, “Growing up in Smelertown,” *Colorado Central Magazine*, October 2012.

<sup>40</sup> U.S. Census, Kortz, Colorado, 1920.

<sup>41</sup> Dixon, *Smokestack*, 16.

<sup>42</sup> Dixon, *Smokestack*, 16.

<sup>43</sup> Shine, “Growing Up.”

Pedro-Botz House

Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado

County and State

Chaffee County School District 5 (Adobe Park and Kortz).<sup>44</sup> The 1920 U.S. Census listed teacher Eunice Graham from Ohio living in Smelertown. The facility continued to serve the community after the closure of the smelter and operated until the mid-1940s, when it was struck by lightning and burned. A one-story, red brick schoolhouse replaced the older school on the same site and served students until consolidations of county educational facilities in 1958.<sup>45</sup>

The community served as a place for people from several countries to interact with each other, assimilate to American culture, and preserve important traditions. Women in the community performed most of the work associated with raising what were often large families, while men were the primary wage earners. However, women contributed to the family's economic security through activities such as raising chickens (as at the Pedro-Botz House), planting gardens, and trading extra food products or services. Widows worked at whatever means of providing for their families was available. Widow Annie Glover, a naturalized citizen from Austria, toiled as a dressmaker to provide for her seven children.<sup>46</sup> As Laurie Mercier found at Anaconda, "Whether through opportunity or necessity, women's labor sustained the smelter city."<sup>47</sup> Women also shaped the ways in which customs and values from the old country continued or were abandoned through such actions as determining the language spoken in the home; establishing foodways, such as the types of food grown and served, as influenced by their traditions and history; and ensuring that family members attended church, received an education, and participated in traditional holidays.<sup>48</sup>

Just as Professor Mercier observed in Montana, the ways Smelertown families adapted to the combination of old and new cultures were ultimately also shaped by the smelter company and the jobs, wages, and environment it established.<sup>49</sup> When E.H. Laws became superintendent of the smelter (1911-18) he led efforts to construct a new school and started an employee insurance program supplementing state requirements. Laws supported the Community Club and municipal band.<sup>50</sup> Pollution from the smelter constituted one of the negative factors impacting the community. Dick Dixon reports that rancher and saloon owner Matt Mautz began submitting bills to the smelter company when his animals or crops died.<sup>51</sup> Finally, the Ohio and Colorado purchased a pollution permit from Mautz that allowed it the "perpetual right, privilege and license to deposit such smoke, fumes, gasses, vapors, flue dust and other noxious and offensive emanations or the chemical products thereof" on his land.<sup>52</sup> In 1917 the company constructed the "big" smokestack, apparently to help alleviate the effects of pollution.

### Construction of the House and the Pedro and Botz Families

*The Pedro Family.* In August 1904 Louis Costello sold lots 11 and 12 of his addition to Stephen Pedro for \$100. Pedro, born in Hungary in 1858, immigrated to the United States in 1890 at the age of thirty-two, becoming one in a tide of people seeking a more promising life. Like many such immigrants, he left his family behind to seek work, perhaps with the intention of returning to Hungary eventually or to save up money to pay for their passage. In 1897 his wife, Annie, and their children, Stephen Jr. and Lizzie, joined him in Leadville, Colorado. In the Cloud City, Stephen found work as a sampler at the great Arkansas Valley Smelter, a more highly skilled job than most Austrian immigrants were able to secure.<sup>53</sup> As the state was experiencing the severe after-effects of the Panic of 1893, having any job in mining made a man fortunate. The 1900 U.S. Census for Leadville found the family with two new sons: Michael, born in 1898, and Joseph, born in 1900.<sup>54</sup> In that year, Stephen worked as a laborer at the smelter.

<sup>44</sup> Everett and Hutchinson, *Under the Angel of Shavano*, 512.

<sup>45</sup> Salida Regional Library, Local History Files, Salida, Colorado.

<sup>46</sup> U.S. Census, Kortz, Colorado, 1920.

<sup>47</sup> Mercier, *Anaconda*, 40.

<sup>48</sup> Mercier, *Anaconda*, 25-27.

<sup>49</sup> Mercier, *Anaconda*, 42.

<sup>50</sup> Dixon, *Smelter*, 38.

<sup>51</sup> Dixon, *Smelter*, 18.

<sup>52</sup> Dixon, *Smelter*, 18-19.

<sup>53</sup> Leadville City Directories, 1895-06. A sampler tested the ore after it was crushed to determine its content and quality.

<sup>54</sup> The census noted Annie had given birth to seven children, of whom four were living.

Pedro-Botz House

Chaffee, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

During the first four years of the twentieth century the Pedros stayed in Leadville, where Stephen remained at the smelter.<sup>55</sup> The family then moved to Salida's Smelertown, where they purchased land and erected the log house. It is not known today why a log house was built; this appears to be the only such dwelling remaining in Smelertown today. Stephen obtained a job at the Ohio and Colorado, as indicated by the 1905 Salida City Directory. In 1907 the country experienced another economic crisis, which negatively impacted mining and smelting operations in Colorado. In that year, the city directory indicated Stephen worked as a clerk at the Globe Mercantile Company and Stephen Jr. was a laborer at the smelter. Typically, when older children began working they gave their paychecks to the family until they married.<sup>56</sup> The family's lives soon changed; by 1910 Stephen was a widower living as a boarder in Arvada, Colorado, with his two younger sons. The Pedros lived on the farm of a Hungarian couple, and Pedro toiled as a laborer at a brick kiln.<sup>57</sup> However, in 1911 Stephen Pedro and Stephen Jr. were both again laborers at the Ohio and Colorado smelter.<sup>58</sup> County records indicate that in April 1912 Stephen Pedro sold his log house to another smelter worker, Frank Botz, at a loss for \$55.<sup>59</sup>

Stephen Pedro still worked at the smelter in 1913, but by 1918 he lived in Geary, Kansas, with his two younger sons, Mike and Joseph. There, he was a laborer at Camp Funston, a U.S. Army training camp during World War I.<sup>60</sup> By 1925 Stephen Pedro lived in Pueblo, Colorado, where he continued to work as a laborer; he died there in 1934 at the age of 77 and was buried in Salida's Fairview Cemetery.<sup>61</sup>

*The Botz Family.* The second and longest owners of the house were natives of Yugoslavia. Frank Botz, born in 1871, moved to the United States about 1901, becoming part of the huge wave of Austro-Hungarian immigrants that also included Stephen Pedro. Frank had attended school through the eighth grade and could read and write. Two years later he moved to Salida and gained employment at the Ohio and Colorado smelter, taking up residence in Smelertown. Josephine Botz, born in 1890, immigrated to the United States in 1905. She had attended school through the second grade and could read and write. The following year at the age of sixteen she married Frank Botz; their first child was born within a year. The couple spent a few years in Utah where Frank obtained a job before returning to Salida and resuming labor at the Ohio and Colorado smelter in 1908.

Frank and Josephine became parents of six children: Stephana, Josephine Emma, Frank, Philip, Hedvika, and Carl. Carl was born in 1920, the year the smelter stopped operating. At that time the Botzes owned their house free of a mortgage. Frank obtained work as a laborer at the creosote plant established on the former smelter site, National Lumber and Creosoting (later known as Koppers). Both parents spoke Slovenian and English and became naturalized citizens. In 1930 Frank valued their house at \$800.<sup>62</sup> The Botzes were members of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Salida.

Women in Smelertown sometimes supplemented family income by working in the restaurant industry. In 1927, Josephine Botz ran a restaurant in Salida.<sup>63</sup> Her daughters Stephana "Steffie" and Jo Emma worked as café waitresses, according to the 1930 U.S. Census. The 1940 U.S. Census indicated Jo Emma Botz was employed as a cook in a tavern. When the family's sons became old enough, they spent time working in the creosoting plant with their father.

Both Frank and Josephine joined a mutual aid organization, South Slavonic Catholic Union, established in 1898 in Ely, Minnesota, to serve the needs of Slovenian immigrants in America.<sup>64</sup> This type of group, owned by the members, provided insurance benefits for illness, work accidents, and death in the era before government and business programs for health care and retirement. Profits from the dues collected went toward cultural and

<sup>55</sup> Leadville City Directories, 1900-06.

<sup>56</sup> Mercier, *Anaconda*, 37.

<sup>57</sup> U.S. Census, West Arvada, Jefferson County, Colorado. 1910.

<sup>58</sup> *Salida City Directory*, 1911.

<sup>59</sup> Chaffee County Clerk and Recorder, Salida, Colorado, Grantee/Grantor Books and Town Lot Books.

<sup>60</sup> U.S. Census, Geary, Kansas, 1920.

<sup>61</sup> *Pueblo, Colorado, City Directory*, 1925 and *Salida Mail*, 20 November 1934, 1.

<sup>62</sup> U.S. Census, Kortz, Colorado, 1920 and 1930.

<sup>63</sup> "Josephine Botz," Find A Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com>, accessed 30 November 2014.

<sup>64</sup> In 1940 the organization was renamed the American Fraternal Union.

Pedro-Botz House

Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado

County and State

educational activities and Slovenian publications. Local groups established lodges, which were places for socializing and maintaining cultural identity. Educational programs for children, music and other entertainment, and sports were among activities of the lodge, which provided members with a sense of belonging in their new country. The South Slavonic Catholic Union was known as a more progressive organization than some and published a newspaper for its members.<sup>65</sup>

Frank continued to work at the creosote plant until age 75. Upon his death in 1957, he was described as a "long time resident of Smelertown." Josephine inherited the property and lived in the house with her daughter Jo Emma until her death in 1979. Her obituary also noted she was "a long-time resident of Smelertown."<sup>66</sup> Jo Emma inherited the house and soon moved elsewhere. In 1988 a Chaffee County Assessor's Office employee noted about the dwelling, "No one has lived here for last 10 years." A 1987 notation indicated "no plumbing."

*Later owners.* In 1979 Thomas David Philips of Denver sold the property to Ronald W. and Linda K. Stone, who also owned the house to the east. Subsequent owners of the house included Sandra C. Roberts and Joseph R. and Helen M. Shine. The Shines also owned the house next door to the east. Joseph Shine's family members were longtime residents of Smelertown. The current owners, David E. and Dora Jean Earl, who live in the house to the east, acquired the property in 1994.

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<sup>65</sup> Matjaz Klemencic, "Slovenes and Slovene Americans, 1870-1940," in Elliott R. Barkan, ed., *Immigrants in American History: Arrival, Adaptation, and Immigration*, vol. 3 (Santa Barbara, California, ABC-CLIO, 2013); Matjaz Klemencic, "Fraternal Benefit Societies and Slovene Immigrants," excerpts from *Slovenia Magazine*, 2004, [www.theSlovenian.com/articles/klemencic1.htm](http://www.theSlovenian.com/articles/klemencic1.htm) on 30 November 2014.

<sup>66</sup> [Salida] *Mountain Mail*, 19 November 1979, 16.

Pedro-Botz House

Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado

County and State

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Pedro-Botz House  
Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado  
County and State

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: History Colorado

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):  
5CF.2900

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acree of Property** Less than 1

**Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.**  
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>38.547939</u>	<u>-106.014907</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

**OR**

**UTM References**

\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1	<u>13</u>	<u>411560</u>	<u>4267101</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Pedro-Botz House  
Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado  
County and State

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated area comprises the east 3' of Lot 10 and Lots 11 and 12 of Costello's Addition to Kortz, Salida vicinity, Chaffee County, Colorado.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes all of the parcel historically associated with the house and its outbuilding.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, Historians (for property owners)

organization Front Range Research Associates, Inc. date 30 January 2015 (Revised)

street & number 3635 W. 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue telephone 303-477-7597

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80211

e-mail fraden@msn.com website www.frhistory.com

**Property Owner:** (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photograph Log**

Name of Property: Pedro-Botz House

City or Vicinity: Salida vicinity

County: Chaffee State: Colorado

Photographer: Thomas H. Simmons



Pedro-Botz House

Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado

County and State

Date

Photographed: September 2014

**Number, camera direction, and description of photographs:**

- 1 of 8, view north-northwest, overview of parcel with house to the left and chicken coop to the right.
- 2 of 8, view north-northwest, initials "F.B." carved in the cornerboard at the southeast corner of the house.
- 3 of 8, view north, front (south wall) of house.
- 4 of 8, view west, east wall of house.
- 5 of 8, view south-southwest, rear (north wall) and part of east wall.
- 6 of 8, view northeast, front and west walls of house.
- 7 of 8, view northeast, front (south) and west walls of chicken coop.
- 8 of 8, view south, overview of parcel from its north end, showing the chicken coop (rear and west walls) at left and the rear of the house to the right.

Pedro-Botz House

Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado

County and State

### Historic Figure Log

1 of 4, The Ohio and Colorado smelter drew many workers from eastern and southern Europe (the Austro-Hungarian Empire) to Salida. The scope of industrial operations is illustrated by this 1917 view from atop the 375' east smokestack. Courtesy of Salida Regional Library, Salida, Colorado, image 196DN.

2 of 4, This ca. 1910-20 photograph (view northwest) illustrates the scale of the Ohio and Colorado Smelter. Smelertown was located east of the plant (right in the photograph), with the Pedro-Botz house out of view off the right edge of the image. Courtesy of History Colorado, Denver, Colorado, image CHS.X5636.

3 of 4, This 1970s-80s Chaffee County Assessor photograph (view northeast) provides a good view of the front and west sides of the house and the yard with its picket fences. Courtesy of Chaffee County Assessor, Salida, Colorado.

4 of 4, The house still had its tall brick chimney in this 29 June 1992 Chaffee County Assessor photograph of the front and west wall. The chimney is shorter now. Courtesy of Chaffee County Assessor, Salida, Colorado.

Pedro-Botz House  
Name of Property

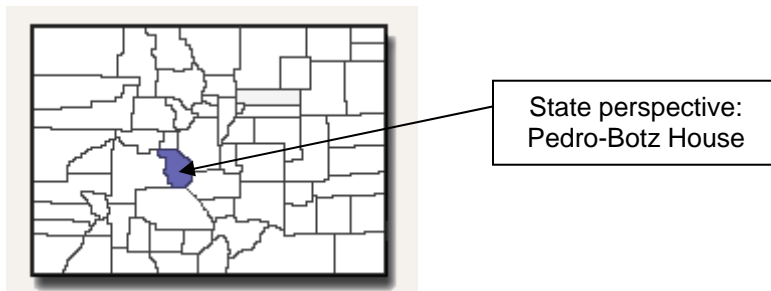
Chaffee, Colorado  
County and State

**Location Map from GoogleEarth**



The labeled box indicates the location of the nominated resource which has the following coordinates:

- Latitude: 38.547937
- Longitude: -106.014907
- Image Date: 24 September 2013
- Datum: WGS84



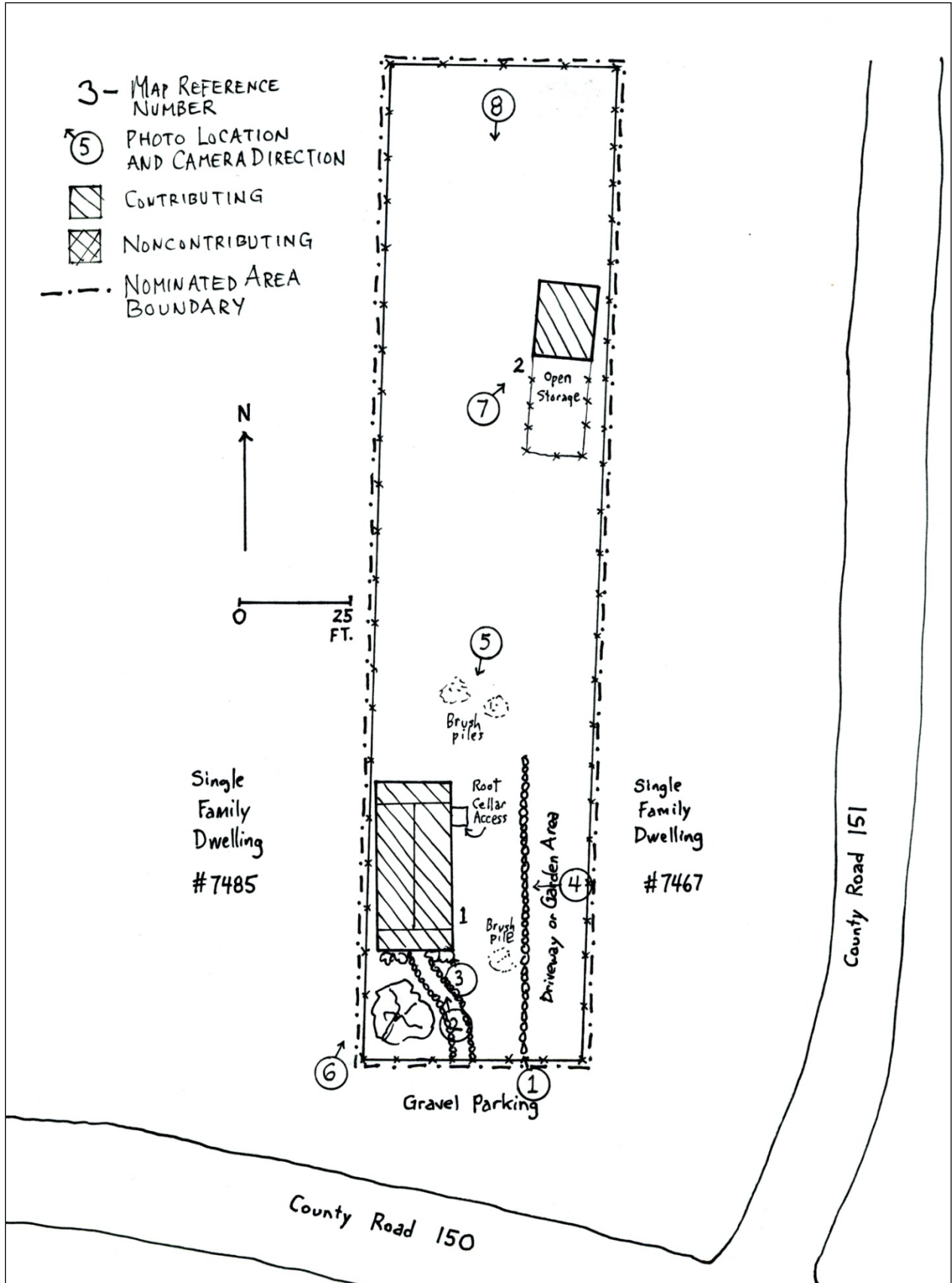
Pedro-Botz House

Chaffee, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Sketch Map





Pedro-Botz House

Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado

County and State

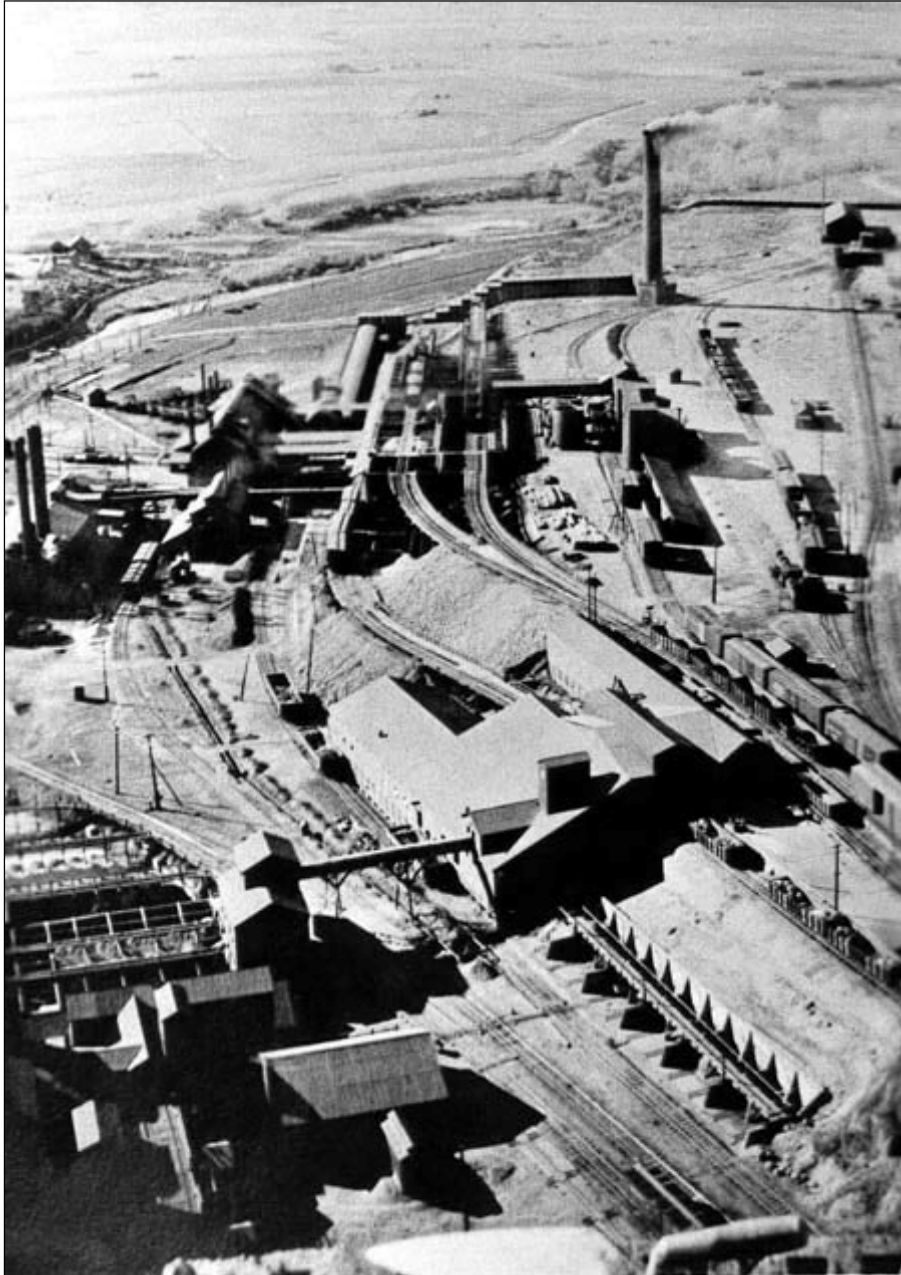


Figure 1. The Ohio and Colorado smelter drew many workers from eastern and southern Europe (the Austro-Hungarian Empire) to Salida. The scope of industrial operations is illustrated by this 1917 view from atop the 375' east smokestack. Courtesy of Salida Regional Library, Salida, Colorado, image 196DN.

Pedro-Botz House

Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado

County and State



Figure 2. This ca. 1910-20 photograph (view northwest) illustrates the scale of the Ohio and Colorado Smelter. Smelertown was located east of the plant (right in the photograph), with the Pedro-Botz house out of view off the right edge of the image. Courtesy of History Colorado, Denver, Colorado, image CHS.X5636.

Pedro-Botz House

Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado

County and State



Figure 3. This 1970s-80s Chaffee County Assessor photograph (view northeast) provides a good view of the front and west sides of the house and the yard with its picket fences. Courtesy of Chaffee County Assessor, Salida, Colorado.



Pedro-Botz House

Name of Property

Chaffee, Colorado

County and State



Figure 4. The house still had its tall brick chimney in this 29 June 1992 Chaffee County Assessor photograph of the front and west wall. The chimney is shorter now. Courtesy of Chaffee County Assessor, Salida, Colorado.