



**Name of Property:** Colorado Fuel and Iron Company Administrative Complex  
**City, State:** Pueblo, Colorado  
**Period of Significance:** 1901—1942  
**NHL Criteria:** 1  
**NHL Theme:** V. Developing the American Economy  
1. Extraction and Production  
4. Workers and Work Culture  
**Previous Recognition:** 2002, 2008 National Register of Historic Places  
**National Historic Context:** *American Labor History Theme Study* (2003)  
XII. Business  
A. Extractive or Mining Industries  
1. Iron or Ferro Alloys  
B. Manufacturing Organizations  
4. Fabricated Metal and Glass Products

**NHL Significance:**

- The administrative complex served as the operational headquarters for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, founded in 1892. This firm played an influential role in the development of the American economy through industrial extraction and production in the early twentieth century as the Trans-Mississippi West’s pioneer steelmaker and its principal coal and coke enterprise.
- Managers, engineers, and clerical staff within the administrative complex oversaw the day-to-day administration of Colorado Fuel and Iron’s multi-state industrial empire, including:
  - Operating a steel and iron plant in Pueblo (completed in 1882 and comprising the nation’s first, fully integrated steel manufacturing facility west of St. Louis, a position it retained until 1942);
  - Overseeing coal, iron, and limestone mines and coke ovens in Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah, and Oklahoma;
  - Directing the flow of eastern capital to developing western natural resources and industrial capacity, particularly through the involvement of the Rockefeller family



- who controlled the company from 1907 to 1944; and
- Implementing the firm's 1915 Employee Representation Plan, which gave workers the right to bargain collectively through elected representatives, participate in conferences with management, keep their jobs if they joined a union, shop at non-company stores, make recommendations about a variety of issues affecting their lives, and air grievances through established procedures. This novel, humane plan impacted workers and work culture and stimulated the adoption of hundreds of similar measures in other industries throughout the country in the 1910s and 1920s.

**Integrity:**

- The CF&I Administrative Complex retains a high degree of historic integrity dating to the period of national significance (1901-1942). Requirements of an evolving workplace brought additions and modifications over a forty-year period, but continued adherence to the Mission Revival style and its themes, such as stucco walls and curvilinear parapets, resulted in a harmonious unity of design. Principal changes are window modifications and additions of HVAC equipment. The interior, with the exception of a portion of the first story updated in the 1950s, retains extensive historic fabric evocative of an early-twentieth-century office building.

**Owner of Property:** Bessemer Historical Society, Pueblo, Colorado.

**Acreage of Property:** 2.6 acres

**Origins of Nomination:** The Bessemer Historical Society (BHS) funded preparation of a briefing statement for the complex to assess its national significance. Following National Park Service comments, BHS (with funding assistance from the NPS, Intermountain Region) commissioned this nomination. The NPS provided guidance and reviews for the nomination.

**Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:**

- Designation of the Administrative Complex will recognize the significance of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company and its role in the history and development of the American West in steelmaking, coal and coke production, and industrial relations.
- Designation would also raise awareness for preservation of the complex and further efforts by the Bessemer Historical Society/Steelworks Center for the West to interpret the site.

**Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** None known.

**Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of ):**

**Landmarks Committee Comments:**

**Landmarks Committee Recommendation:**

**Advisory Board Recommendation:**