

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 determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Canyon (Canon) Creek School, District No. 32

other names/site number The Little Red Schoolhouse at Canyon Creek; 5GF.372

2. Location

street & number 0566 County Road 137 [N/A] not for publication

city or town Glenwood Springs [X] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Garfield code 045 zip code 81601

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 [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title: Georgina Cortezuela, State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: November 17, 2003
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
[X] entered in the National Register [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register
[] other, explain [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of the Keeper: Edwin W. Beall
Date of Action: 1/6/04

Canyon Creek Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Garfield County/ Colorado
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing Noncontributing

3	0	buildings
<hr/>		
0	0	sites
<hr/>		
0	0	structures
<hr/>		
0	0	objects
<hr/>		
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

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

Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/ school
SOCIAL/ meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/ meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/ rural schoolhouse

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE; CONCRETE
walls METAL

roof METAL
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Canyon Creek Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Garfield County/ Colorado
County/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.

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION
SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1907-1959

Significant Dates

1907

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
- # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
Colorado Historical Society

Canyon Creek Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Garfield County/ Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.0

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 289719 4384005
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Violet Mooney, Trustee (Edited by Chris Geddes)
organization Little Red Schoolhouse Club date July 27, 2003
street & number 0152 Road 137 telephone (970) 945-1333
city or town Glenwood Springs state CO zip code 81601

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Roaring Fork School District RE-1
street & number 1405 Grand Avenue telephone (970) 384-6000
city or town Glenwood Springs state CO zip code 81601

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. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Canyon Creek Schoolhouse
Garfield County/ ColoradoSection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION & ALTERATIONS**

Nestled along the creek in a narrow valley and surrounded by tall spruce trees and lilac bushes, many of which were planted by graduating students, the Canyon Creek Schoolhouse is accessed by a wooden footbridge over a ditch. The buildings sit in a small clearing deep within the colorful canyon walls. The nominated property is just off a winding dirt and gravel road about a mile north of Interstate 70 and the old U.S. Highway 6.

The schoolhouse is a one-story front-gabled building with a rectangular plan, which sits atop a stone foundation parged with concrete in places. The roof consists of metal sheeting over wood shingles. A hipped roof bell tower, with original bell, sits along the roofline towards the front. Slatted wood vents make up the four sides of the bell tower, enclosing the bell. A string mechanism runs from the bell to the cloakroom, allowing for the bell to be rung. A brick chimney is located on the west slope of the roof, adjacent to the bell tower. A second brick chimney stands along the eastern exterior wall, just north of the door. Brick-stamped metal panels over wood siding make up the exterior walls. A gable roofed cinderblock addition was constructed on the rear in 1953 to house a furnace. The rear elevation (north side) has vertical metal panels in the gable face and two small window openings. One window is a small slider; the other opening is covered. Entry to the addition is through a simple wood door on the east side. The addition cannot be accessed from the classroom.

Windows on all elevations of the original school building are 4/4 wood double-hung with simple wood trim and slightly projecting window heads. Due to vandalism, no original glass remains. Plywood covers the openings on the inside. The west side has 3 windows, the south façade has two and the east side also has two. A door, accessed by three concrete steps, stands in place of a third window on the east. It would appear this was originally a window that was converted to a Dutch door. A former student, Pete Mattivi, remembers this door from his days at the school in the early 19-teens, graduating from the 8th grade in 1917. A centrally placed set of double doors, with a transom, serves as the main entrance on the south and is flanked by a window on either side. A shed roof porch supported by simple square wood posts with an upside-down "W" balustrade shelters the entrance. Concrete steps access the porch from the west side with a round metal handrail.

Interior

The interior of the schoolhouse is divided into a cloakroom and a classroom. The cloakroom has a smaller room to the left (west). The ceiling of the cloakroom contains the attic and bell tower access through a pull down door/opening. The smaller room to the west was carved out of the cloakroom in the early 1940s to accommodate the teacher; gas rationing during World War II kept the teacher, Ms. Margaret Lucksinger, from traveling home to Basalt every day. The room, which had just enough space for a twin size bed, was converted to a book room in the 1950s and used as such until the school was closed due to consolidation.

A single 4-panel door, with original filigree knob and plate, leads into the classroom. The original piano, teacher's desk and chair sit on original oak floors. A blackboard covers most of the north wall. Interior walls and ceiling are lath and plaster, and are newly painted. Fluorescent lighting is mounted to the center of the ceiling in a north/south direction.

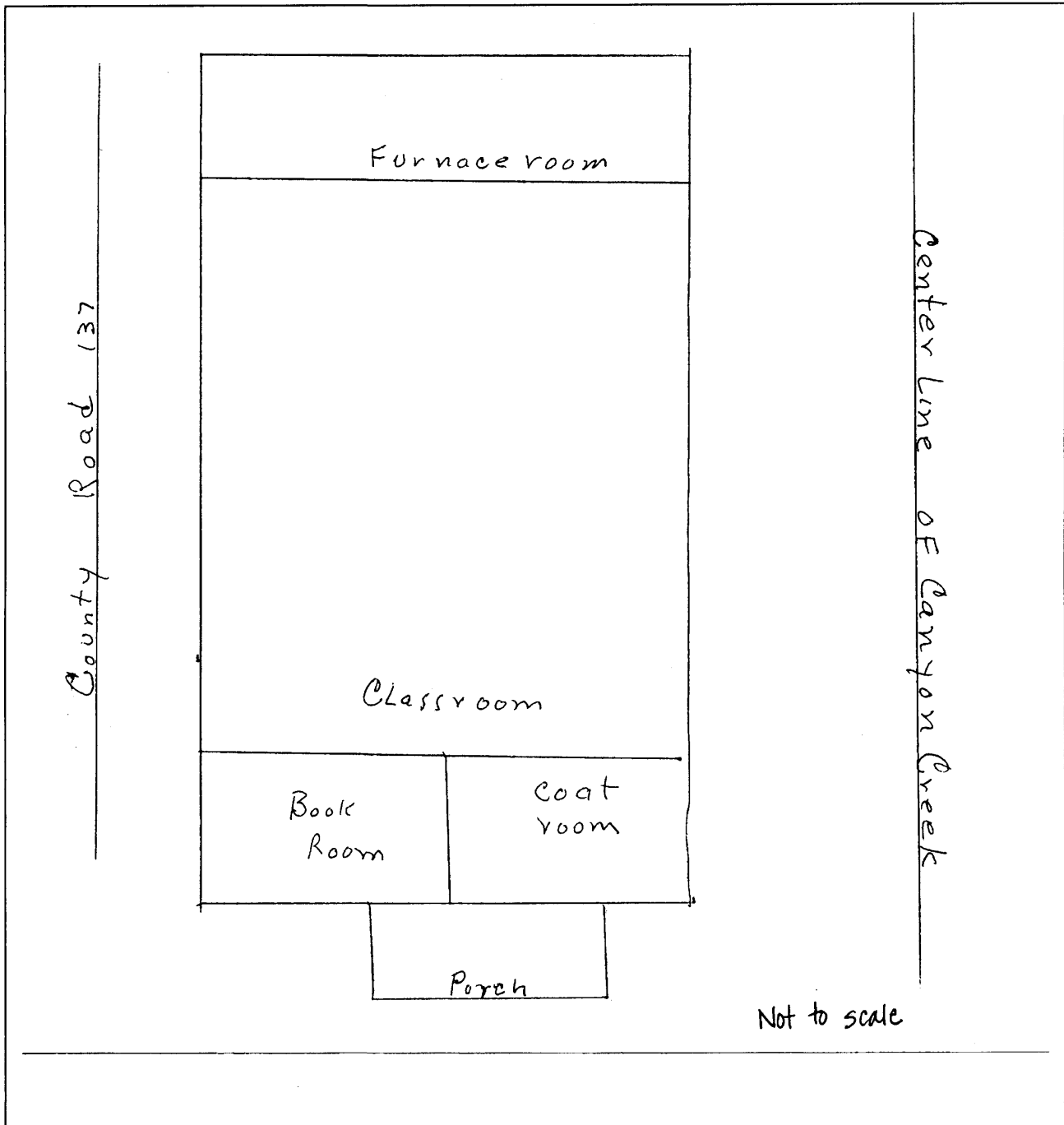
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Canyon Creek Schoolhouse
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Floor Plan



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Privies

There are two privies associated with the schoolhouse- the girls privy to the east and the boys to the north. They are identical in composition and are similar to the Works Progress Administration (WPA) standard plan privies constructed all over the United States during the Depression. A concrete sidewalk that runs north/south, and parallel to the schoolhouse on the east side, accesses the boys' privy. A concrete sidewalk that heads east from the previously mentioned sidewalk, south of the schoolhouse, provides access to the girls' privy. The privies are one-story buildings with wood board shed roofs and square plans. Exposed rafters peek out from the eaves. Horizontal wood siding covers the walls and there are cornerboards on all four corners. Two rectangular vents are placed on the side- one about mid-level and one towards the ground with a third vent on the rear. The boys' privy has two vents on the west and one on the north; the girls' privy has two vents on the north and one on the east. A vertical wood door is placed off center and opens outward. The seat is placed in the corner at an angle, another trademark of WPA privy construction. Each privy contains only one seat.

Landscape Features

To the northwest of the schoolhouse is the site of the horse barn. All that currently remains is the gate and the framework of one end. The barn collapsed sometime in the 1950s and the school district authorized the removal of the barn in 1959. Milled lumber is the only vestige of this early structure. In addition, there is a metal merry-go-round on the ground directly south of the school's main entry. It is thought to date to 1907-1910 and was assembled by the local ranchers once it arrived on site. The slide, swings, and teeter-totter were added in the 1950s.

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National Park Service**Canyon Creek Schoolhouse
Garfield County/ ColoradoSection number 8 Page 4**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Canyon Creek Schoolhouse is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Social History. It is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The building meets the registration requirements of the Schoolhouse Property Type as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form- Rural School Buildings in Colorado. The period of significance begins with the most commonly agreed upon date of construction of the school in 1907 and ends in 1959 when the school district was consolidated. The school exhibits those characteristics associated with the property type: a rural setting, rectangular plan, gabled roof, cloakroom, tall narrow windows, and one large classroom. It is a representative example of a rural country school. The building has a long association as the educational center of the area, serving as the local school from its construction up until consolidation. The building was also the focus of community life, holding dances, holiday programs, dinners, social gatherings, and local elections. "As in many other country places, the school house became the center of social life for the community. Saturday night dances became the most memorable" (Urquhardt, 1959, p. 19). The Canyon Creek Schoolhouse remains the heart of this small area to this day. The building now plays host to parties, ditch company meetings, and even dances, continuing its longstanding tradition of providing a space for the community to come together. With its context intact, the school, its associated privies and playground equipment, contributes to a better understanding of rural education.

Formed in 1890-1891, District No. 32 was the result of ranchers in the area needing a place for their children to be educated. Classes were first held in a log cabin on the Baxter Ranch in 1891, located southwest of the current school. The school started with 12 pupils under the tutelage of Mr. Frank Warner. At an unknown date, the log cabin school was moved to the site of the current school. At this point there are sources with differing dates of construction about the current building. Bernice Gilman Dwire indicates that Eugene Wolverton, her great-grandfather, built the present frame schoolhouse in 1907 on land he donated, at a cost of \$4000 to build. She also states that the land was not formally deeded until 1919 (Dwire, August 2003). A second source indicates that the current schoolhouse is an expanded and modified version of the moved 1891 log cabin with the alterations occurring in 1919, though still on land purchased from Mr. Wolverton (Urquhardt, 1959, p.19). An interview with Pete Mattivi, age 97, seems to corroborate the 1907 date of construction as he attended the school from approximately 1910 to 1917, when he graduated from the 8th grade. The school Mr. Mattivi remembers is the current red building, not the earlier log cabin with the dirt roof. With only a few oral histories, a 1959 local history publication, and a lack of superintendent's records for the county, the exact construction date of the current building will probably never be known. Therefore, it would appear that 1907 is the most likely date of construction for the current schoolhouse.

Historic Background

The Canon Creek area was settled after the removal of the Ute Indians in 1881, though somewhat later than the surrounding area due to its isolation. Some of the early arrivals obtained prime parcels but quickly sold out to later settlers, who found the sheltered area much to their liking. In the late 1880s and into the 1890s, Canon Creek became an exciting and bustling settlement. Log houses dotted the valley as people made this their permanent home. Cattle and sheep ranching, apple and cherry orchards, small fruit plots, and truck gardens provided the livelihoods of families living in the creek area. Irrigation ditches were dug for the various agricultural ventures. Hunting ground tours provided another means to earn an income. Tour guides brought in well-known people from all over the world,

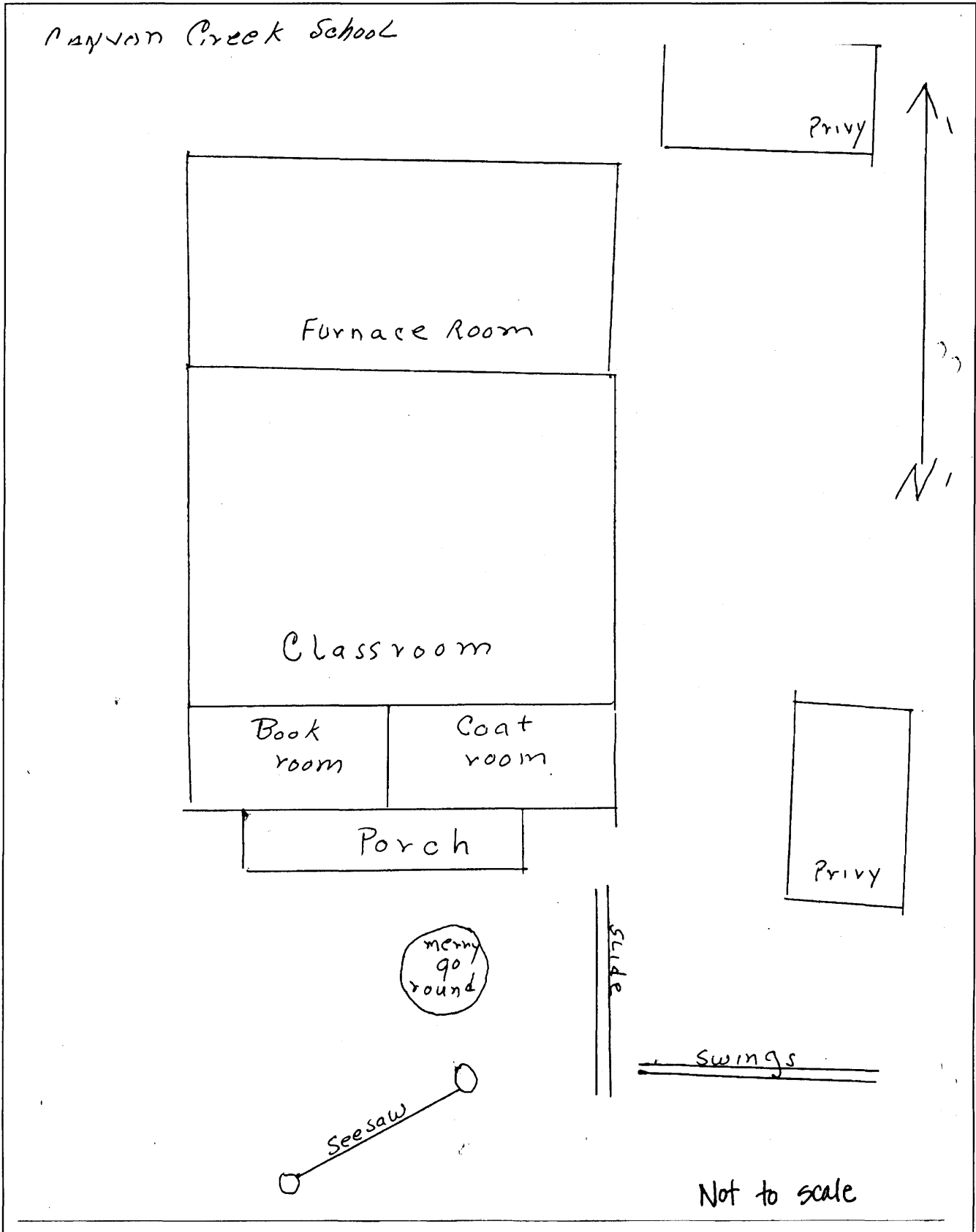
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Site Plan



Not to scale

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including a 1905 visit by President Teddy Roosevelt. Outfitting also became a way for locals to earn a living.

By the early 1900s, many residents turned to running guest cabins, dude ranches, and resorts for those coming to the area to pursue recreation and nature. Some of these guest cabins/resorts are still in existence, serving the needs of 21st century visitors. Ranching continued to be the mainstay of the economy up until the 1950s, when many of the ranches and farms were broken up into home sites. The area, tucked in between New Castle and Glenwood Springs immediately north of Interstate 70, has shifted away from its agricultural roots to focus on recreational outfitting and tourism, though dairy farming and commercial apple production persevere to the present.

**National Register of Historic Places
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National Park Service**Canyon Creek Schoolhouse
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Butchart, Ronald E. *Local Schools, Exploring Their History*. Nashville, TN: The American Association for State and Local History, 1986.
- Doggett, Suzanne and Holly Wilson. *Rural School Buildings in Colorado*. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Colorado Historical Society, 1996.
- Dwire, Bernice Gilman, August 2003, interview by phone by Violet Mooney.
- "Education in Garfield." *Avalanche Echo Special Edition*, May 1893, p. 7.
- Frontier Historical Society Archives, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.
- Gulliford, Andrew. *America's Country Schools*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1984.
- "Little One-Room School Retains Much Of Past." Unknown newspaper and date.
- Mattivi, Pete, June & August 2003, interview by Violet Mooney at New Castle, Colorado.
- Urquhart, Lena M. *History of the Canon Creek by way of Carbonate Trail*. N.P., 1959.

**National Register of Historic Places
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National Park Service**Canyon Creek Schoolhouse
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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Beginning at a point on the Easterly right-of-way line of said road whence a stone corner found in place and properly marked for the Southwest Corner of said Section 25 bears S. 41 degrees 46' 56" W. 1359.19 feet; thence N. 12 degrees 46' 28" W. 227.29 feet along the Easterly right-of-way line of said road; thence N. 21 degrees 48' 13" W. 264.18 feet along the Easterly right-of-way line of said road; thence N. 09 degrees 42' 14" W. 38.47 feet along the Easterly right-of-way line of said road; thence N. 61 degrees 31' 11" E. 238.95 feet to a point in the center of said Creek; thence S. 24 degrees 04' 48" E. 191.10 feet along the center of said Creek; thence S. 14 degrees 17' 12" W. 127.03 feet along center of said Creek thence S. 03 degrees 33' 39" E. 161.52 feet along the center of said Creek; thence S. 21 degrees 41' 43" E. 218.73 feet along the center of said Creek; thence N. 81 degrees 53' 08" W. 243.29 feet to a point on the Easterly right-of-way line of said road, the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the school and associated buildings and structures utilized during its operation, as well as historic features of the site.

**National Register of Historic Places
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Garfield County/ ColoradoSection number ___ Page 9**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-4 except as noted:

Name of Property: Canyon Creek Schoolhouse
Location: Garfield County, Colorado
Photographer: Danny Adams
Date of Photographs: August 2003
Negatives: With nomination preparer- Violet Mooney

Photo No. Photographic Information

- 1 West and south sides, view to northeast
- 2 South façade, view to north
- 3 North and west sides, view to southeast
- 4 Interior- classroom, view to north

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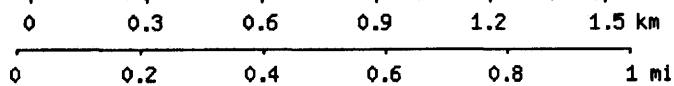
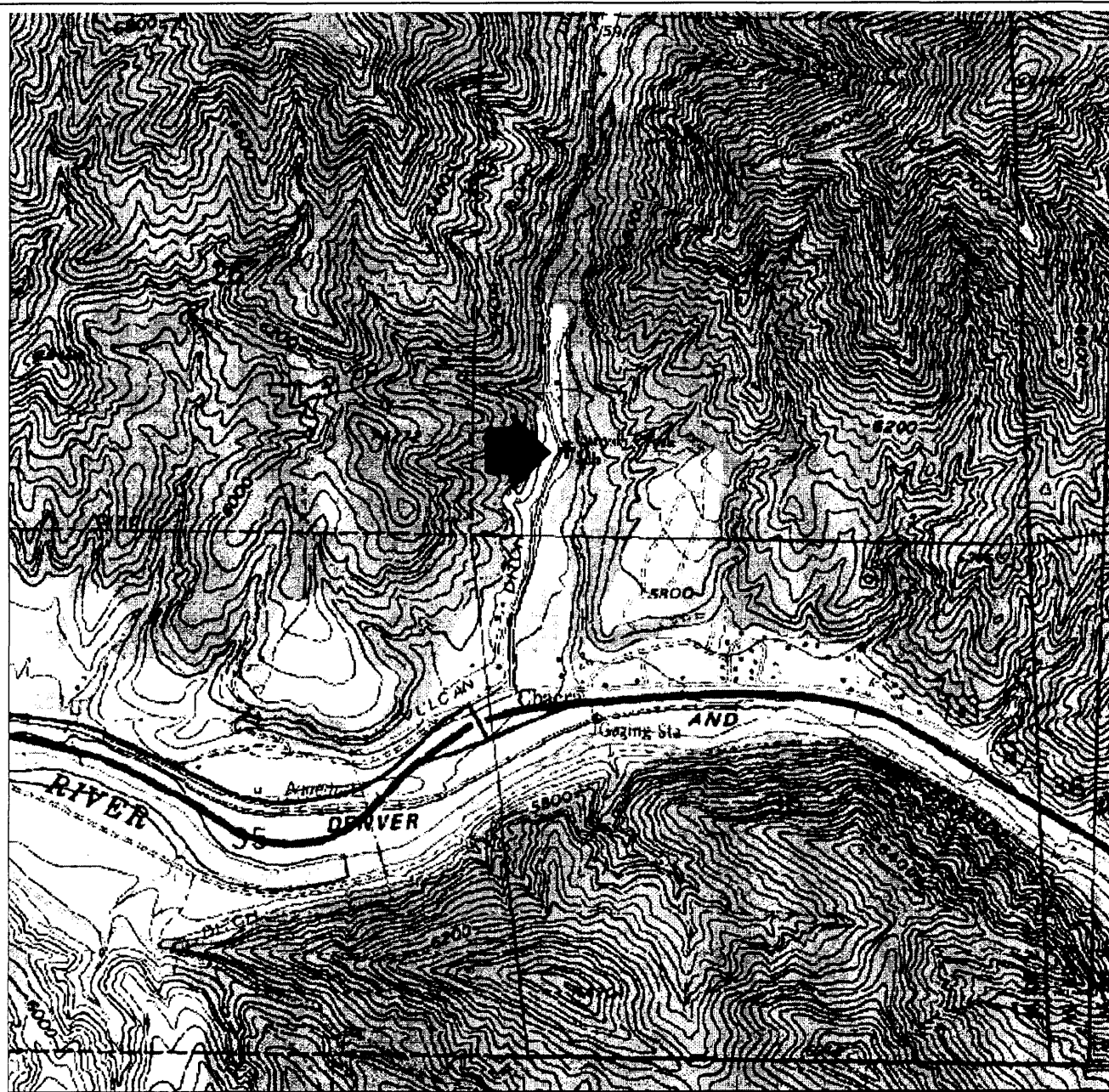
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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Storm King Mountain
Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 289719E / 4384005N
PLSS: 6th PM, T5S, R90W, Sec. 25 SW¹/₄ NE¹/₄ SW¹/₄
SW¹/₄
Elevation: 5720 feet



Map center is UTM 13 289719E 4384005N (NAD27)
Storm King Mountain quadrangle
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum



MN=12.875
GN=1.561