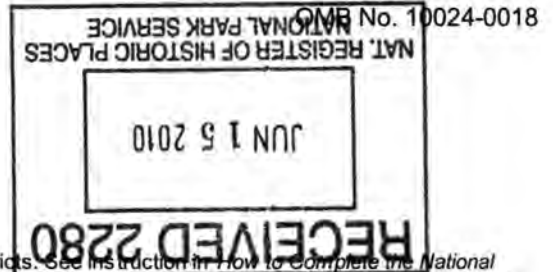


505



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 Bent County High School

Other names/site number Las Animas Middle School, Las Animas Junior High School, 5BN.382

2. Location

Street & number 1214 Ambassador Thompson Blvd. [N/A] not for publication

City or town Las Animas [N/A] vicinity

State Colorado code CO county Bent code 011 zip code 81054

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 6/8/10 Date

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 :

- 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 See continuation sheet.
- other, explain See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper 7-30-10 Date of Action

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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

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

New Deal Resources of Colorado's Eastern Plains

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/
Classical Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne
NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation SANDSTONE
walls BRICK
roof OTHER
other

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The Bent County High School is primarily composed of a Classical Revival building, built in 1914, with a Works Progress Administration (WPA)/ Public Works Administration (PWA) addition built in 1939, and a vocational education classroom and shop built in 1947. The education complex is located at the west entrance into Las Animas, Colorado. The lot is bounded by Highway 50/Ambassador Thompson Boulevard to the south, Poplar Avenue to the west, an alley to the north and Cottonwood Avenue to the west. The original school is located in the center of the lot, with the PWA addition in the northeast corner. The second building, the FFA (formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, now the National FFA Organization) building, is in the northwest corner of the lot. With the exception of a large paved area/basketball court on the west side, the lot is open turf with ten mature American Elm trees in a row in front of the school. There are five mature Rocky Mountain Juniper trees along and very close to the wall of the WPA/PWA gymnasium addition, two on the east side and three on the south side. There is another Rocky Mountain Juniper at the northwest corner of the FFA building. Along and close to the west edge of the property are two young trees, a Hawthorn and a Willow.

Bent County High School, 1914 (contributing)

The Classical Revival building has a flat roof and an approximately 60' x 80' footprint. The rectangular plan building has two stories plus a raised basement and a south-facing main entrance façade. The raised basement is constructed of quarry-faced, ashlar, sandstone blocks laid with a rope mortar joint. The remainder of the building is constructed of multi-hued, buff brick above the water table course to the cornice. The window style, including window type, lintels, and sills with stylized guttae-type decoration, is identical on all sides. The fenestration on all sides is generally symmetrical, a common element of classical design.

The primary façade is composed of a tripartite division. A two-story, classically styled portico fills the center bay. The portico is reached by a stairway with fourteen concrete steps flanked by stepped, stone-faced cheek walls. The flat portico roof is supported by four giant order Ionic columns with two additional Ionic pilasters. The columns rest on individual brick plinths with striated sandstone caps and bases. A pressed metal entablature extends around the portico and continues around the perimeter of the entire building. The entablature consists of a stepped architrave, paneled frieze, and bracketed cornice. A brick-faced parapet extends above the entablature. Flat, stylized brick pilasters frame the portico as well as the corners of the building. At the center of the portico is the main entrance to the building. A wood panel and substantial door surround of rusticated sandstone blocks surmount the French doors. On the second floor, above the entrance, is a row of windows composed of three, one-over-one, wood-framed sash windows. All windows feature sandstone sills with guttae.

The flanking bays each feature three superimposed rows of windows composed of four, one-over-one, wood-frame double-hung windows, one row on each of the building's three levels. Bracketed hoods of pressed sheet metal with scrolled brackets are located above the windows on the first (main) floor. The main and upper floor windows have cut sandstone sills with guttae.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 2

The west side has three bays separated by brick pilasters. The basement level on the left bay has two smaller one-over-one, wood-frame double-hung windows on the left with a door to the right. A set of concrete steps leads below grade to a flush panel service door with a single light. There are rows of three windows on the first and second levels as on the primary façade. The right bay is identical with the exception of a row of three windows on the basement level. The central bay has a single window on the basement level and a door with a large transom on the first and second levels. A metal fire escape, with eleven risers per flight, separated by landings at the main story and intermediately between the main and second levels, extends from grade to the second-story door. Historic photos show an older fire escape, replaced at an unknown date; notwithstanding, the more modern iteration retains the location, function, and feeling of the original.

The north (rear) façade also features three bays separated by brick pilasters. The bay on the left has three superimposed rows, the bottom two composed of four windows, while the second floor features only three windows, grouped a singly and as a pair. The right bay's fenestration is a mirror image of the left bay with the exception of the basement level. The basement level had two windows on the left side of the bay. The right window has been covered with a flush panel door, painted white. There are two diminutive windows on the right side of the bay at the building's corner. The center bay has two single windows on first level and a single door and window in the basement level. The second level has a single row of four windows.

The east side is a mirror image of the building's west side, except for the two-story corridor-like connection between the 1914 building and the 1939 WPA/PWA addition. The connection is at the central bay and extends from grade to the top of the second-level door.

The original interior layout has not had many major alterations over the years. The central staircase located inside of the main entrance accesses all three levels of the building. There are three classrooms, teacher's lounge, and store room on the basement level. The main floor consists of four classrooms and the school offices. The upper floor has five classrooms. Most of the classrooms still have original pressed tin ceilings and molding, and paneled, built-in cupboards.

The original Bent County High School building retains a high degree of integrity. As evidenced on the exterior, integrity of design and workmanship is high, including retention of historic windows. The design of the symmetrical, Classical Revival building is clearly evident. Workmanship is expressed through the ashlar masonry units in the raised foundation, center portico supported by fluted Ionic columns, and elaborate entablature and classical detailing. The only significant change to the design and materials of the exterior of the 1914 building is the replacement of historic fire escapes with modern equivalents and the infilling of the sunburst-patterned transoms above the south entrance. These are located in their historic locations on the east and west facades of the building and are therefore sympathetic to the original design.

The building remains at its original location and retains its setting as a prominent fixture in the City of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 3

Las Animas. The location and setting of the building help to convey integrity of feeling and association through its relationship with a residential neighborhood north of the building, and Highway 50, the most prominent thoroughfare in Las Animas, located just south of the building. The building retains a high degree of original materials; however the integrity of these has been negatively impacted through deferred maintenance over the past decade since abandonment of use as a school. The building nevertheless retains integrity of association with the education of the children of Las Animas and Bent County.

On the interior the central staircase was upgraded during the period of significance in order to meet health and safety codes. Other alterations to the interior have been minimal. Design of the interior remains intact, thus helping to convey the feeling and association of this educational building; however, materials and workmanship have been impacted through deferred maintenance, including disappearance of many interior doors.

WPA/PWA Gymnasium Addition, 1939

The WPA/PWA addition is attached to the center of the east side of the 1914 original Classical Revival building by means of a two-story corridor link. The addition features an irregular plan and simple, economical modern design with little ornamentation. Stylistic attributes of the Art Deco and Art Moderne styles can be found throughout the building. The addition is comprised of a large auditorium/gymnasium on the north side, classrooms and offices on the south side, and the connecting corridor to the west. The two-story building with a basement has an east-facing primary façade with a flat roof, brick parapet, and concrete coping. The red brick building features a concrete foundation and structural steel floors and roof structure. The brick work features a stretcher course with raked mortar joints. The entire building has been painted a non-historic cream color. Historic photographs of the addition show that the building's exterior originally featured decorative, wide alternating bands of light and dark. The light color alone was painted and the darker color corresponded to the natural brick color.

The two-story connecting corridor measures 28' x 10' and has three bays. The corridor connects to the 1914 Classical Revival building on the west side or classroom/office section of the WPA/PWA addition. The southern portion of the Poplar Avenue façade is set back from the main body of the gymnasium wing of the addition, and thus the right bay of the corridor connector's roof slopes up to the addition's two-story roof height. Viewed from Ambassador Thompson Boulevard, the left bay of the connector has twelve-light metal-framed fixed windows on both levels. The central bay has two metal-framed casement windows with eight lights on each level. The right bay has a projecting brick entrance with a set of flush panel doors, each with single lights, and a concrete overhang. The brick entrance is the only part of the connection that is not painted. Above the entrance is a single metal-framed casement window with eight lights. The connector is the only section of the WPA/PWA building retaining its historic windows intact.

The classroom/office section of the addition measures 61' x 70.' The west side has three uneven bays of windows. All of the windows are identical, large metal-framed replacement windows, with the exception of the first floor window in the left bay which is much smaller and original. The central bay has three of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

these large, fixed replacement windows on the first and second levels, which superficially represent nine lights divided by a flat grille, only two of which, however, are not covered over. The recessed openings for these replacement windows appear to be the same size and with sills original to construction. Between the bays, at the roof level, are small, segmental arch drainage openings with decorative concrete rainspouts. Historic photos attest that these rainspouts are original.

The south façade (Ambassador Thompson Boulevard) of the classroom/office section of the addition has a single, central entrance door embedded within a larger metal replacement window configuration. The second level consists of a large window opening with a twelve-light fixed replacement metal window. Similar to all replacement windows on the PWA addition, only four lights in the upper window are glazed, while sheets of metal fill the remaining lights.

The setback portion of the east-facing façade of the classroom/office section features the main entrance to the PWA addition and banks of windows at the left corner. The fenestration consists of a row of three large openings infilled with metal replacement windows on the first and second floor. To the right of the windows there are four smaller window openings infilled with brick. The entrance consists of two sets of double flush panel doors flanked and separated by stepped brick pilasters. Above the entrance doors is a metal overhang. Between the brick pilasters are large areas with infilled red brick. The right side has a sliding metal replacement window. According to historic photos this metal overhang originally had stylized letters in a modern font that read "Bent County High School." The photos also show that the brick infill over the door was originally glass block.

The auditorium section of the PWA addition has an east-facing façade, measuring 80' x 102', and connected to the classroom section to the south. The symmetrical façade has a central entrance door with a set of two paneled doors. There is a projecting brick surround stripped of paint around the doors. All windows on this side have been infilled with brick or layers of concrete. Originally there were six large windows on the first level and seven smaller windows on the second level.

The north face of the auditorium section faces the alley and has a small one-story section at right. There are three doors on this side of the building: one flush panel door on the left with a projecting brick surround and two flush panel doors to the right. All windows on this side have been infilled with brick or layers of concrete. There are six windows on the second level. The one-story section has no window openings.

The west side of the auditorium section is mostly obstructed because of the close proximity to the 1914 Classical Revival building. There is a small one-story section on the right with a brick chimney to the right of it. All windows on this side have been infilled with brick or layers of concrete. There are at least three infilled windows on the second level.

The interior of the addition is relatively unchanged. The addition has a large gymnasium with a herringbone patterned wood floor and stage. The gymnasium retains its original theater seating and balcony. The integrity of the 1939 addition has been negatively impacted through the infill of many openings, resulting in the loss or change of historic fenestration and doors. Workmanship is partially obscured through these changes. The addition is otherwise unchanged and retains integrity of location,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 5

setting, feeling, and association such that it conveys its significance in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation, Politics/Government and Education. Art Deco influences in the design of the main and gymnasium entrances, as reflected in details such as stepped brick pilasters and small curved projections over the top of entrances, are retained. The addition retains its original footprint and massing.

On the interior, the 1939 addition retains a high degree of integrity of materials and workmanship. Offices, classrooms and meeting rooms retain original finishes, including built-in trophy cases, structural glazed tile, and original dedication plaques. With the exception of the limited introduction of acoustical tile ceiling panels, the design and layout of the interior remain as built, conveying the feeling and association of the building as an educational and recreational facility.

FFA Building, 1947 (contributing)

This one-story utilitarian building has a main gable roof and is approximately a 100' x 80' footprint. The rectangular plan building has a west-facing main entrance façade. The building is stuccoed masonry construction painted white. The building is split into three sections, a central block with a parallel-running gable, and hip-on-gable wings on both the east and west ends. The wings share a ridge line with the central block but have a steeper roof slope.

The west-facing façade has double paneled entrance doors on the left side. To the right of the doors is a row of two windows infilled with two smaller replacement windows. There is an identical window opening on either side of the building. The window on the left side has a smaller replacement, while the window on the right is completely infilled. There is a vent beneath the hip.

The south side of the building is symmetrical. The original fenestration included rows of two four-over-four windows. There are two rows of two windows on each wing. The central block is separated into five bays by small buttresses. All bays are identical with a single pair of two windows with the exception of the bay at far left. This bay has a flush panel entrance door on the right and a single window on the left. Currently all windows have been either infilled completely with vertical wood boards, or partially infilled with a replacement window. A second flush panel door has also been added to the right side of the second bay from the left.

The east side of the building has two overhead garage doors, one in the center and one on the right side. The central door is wider. There is a vent beneath the hip in the roof. It is undetermined whether these doors are historic. The secondary, north side of the building faces an alley, has few windows, and no buttresses.

The north side is separated into three uneven bays. The left bay has two windows infilled with vertical boards. The central bay consists of a single overhead garage door. The right bay has a flush panel door and five infilled windows. There is one window to the left of the door and four to the right. There is also a brick chimney on the right side of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 6

The integrity of the FFA building has been negatively impacted by the infill of the window openings and replacement of original windows with smaller units. Additionally, a change in roofing material from asphalt to metal further diminishes the integrity of materials and workmanship. However, the character defining buttresses remain and the footprint of the building is the same as when built. The distinctive hip-on-gable and gable roof configuration and profile remains the same as when built. Integrity of location, setting, feeling and association remain high, such that the building contributes to the significance of the complex.

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.)

- [X] 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.
[X] 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- EDUCATION
ARCHITECTURE
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Periods of Significance

1914-1960

Significant Dates

- 1914
1939
1947

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

- DUBREE, Walter/ LARSON, James
DEMORDAUNT, Walter
GRAY, John / Platt Rogers, Inc.
THOMAS, Charles
SWEET, Gordon

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State Agency
[] Federal Agency
[] Local Government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

Bent County High School
Name of Property

Bent, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- | | | | | |
|----|------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. | 13 | 655117 | 4214357 | (NAD27) |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 2. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 3. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 4. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |

The UTM reference point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHF by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

[x] 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 Patrick A. Eidman, Michelle M. Chichester, and Ashley L. Bushey (for property owner)
Organization Colorado Preservation, Inc. date March 25, 2010
Street & number 333 W. Colfax Avenue, Suite 300 telephone (303) 893-4260
City or town Denver state CO zip code 80204

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 Las Animas School District RE-1
Street & number 1021 Second Street telephone (719) 456-0161
City or town Las Animas state CO zip code 81054

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 range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 7

SIGNIFICANCE

The Bent County High School, constructed in 1914 and expanded in 1939 through New Deal programs, is eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion A for its association with **Education, Entertainment/Recreation, and Politics/Government** and under Criterion C for **Architecture** at the local level of significance. The building facilitated the education of generations of children in the rural community of Las Animas, as evidenced by the creation of a high school district, a common movement in the early 1900s, in order to provide increased quality of facilities. The building is architecturally significant as a distinctive example of 1910s school design in the Classical Revival style on Colorado's eastern plains and 1930s school design in the WPA Moderne style. Both sections of the building were designed by regional architects.

The period of significance begins in 1914 with the construction of the original Bent County High School. Although the school remained in active use until the late 1990s, the period of significance closes in 1960 in compliance with National Register guidance. The significant dates of 1914 and 1939 correspond to the construction of the main high school building and New Deal program-constructed addition respectively. The date 1947 corresponds to the construction of the Future Farmers of America building.

The property meets the requirements for registration under Criterion A as elaborated in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) *New Deal Resources on Colorado's Eastern Plains*, authored by Deon Wolfenbarger for Colorado Preservation, Inc., in 2005. The applicable property types are educational buildings, subtype primary and secondary school facilities, and recreational and cultural resources, subtype community centers and auditoriums/gymnasiums. As described in the MPDF:

Additions to school buildings were also common New Deal projects, usually combination gymnasiums/auditoriums. These additions were not always constructed to match the original school Facility (...) Generally, due to the cost of materials, school additions in eastern Colorado "made do" with the least expensive and most readily available construction materials (...) Additional projects were often undertaken to meet other student needs. Landscaping projects included playground construction, beautification of grounds with shrubs and trees, and athletic fields (p.F-98).

Some of the largest examples of New Deal resources on the eastern plains are the prominent combination auditorium/gymnasium/community center buildings. Several of these projects were sponsored by a local school district. They were built on school property, generally adjacent to an existing school and sometimes included classrooms or other educational space (p. F-107).

Rural education, far different in circumstances and challenges than its urban equivalent in the early years of the twentieth century, began to gain the focused attention of Colorado local governments as early as 1909. With limited access to secondary education in comparable communities between 1906 and 1914, only twenty percent of Colorado schoolchildren in rural schools with less than 350 students received an eighth-grade education. In demonstration of the increasing importance of secondary education, Bent

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

County organized a county high school district, approved in 1913, and erected a prominent building in 1914 to house its high school students. In reporting on the upcoming High School Bond Election, the *Las Animas Leader* editorialized on July 18, 1913:

That a new building for the housing of the High School is an absolute necessity, nobody will or can deny, and now is the accepted time to go and cast a ballot for the issue of these bonds, and thereby insure [sic] that the children of Bent County shall have an equal advantage with any in the country in obtaining a high school education, which is the least that a progressive community can do for its children.

The high school district made increased and consolidated resources accessible to secondary students, and the community felt strongly that the educational opportunities to be provided by the new high school would surpass that of the colleges of the preceding decades. The Bent County High School served as the city's only high school from its construction in 1914 until a new building was constructed in 1967. The building continued to function as a school, housing the Las Animas Middle School until the late 1990s. According to the results of a recent Colorado Preservation, Inc. statewide survey of school district-owned buildings, the Bent County High School is one of approximately three dozen extant buildings from its decade of construction remaining under the ownership of a school district.

The building was expanded by New Deal construction programs in 1939, specifically the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Public Works Administration (PWA). New Deal programs of the 1930s were prolific in the construction of school improvement projects. Many small or rural districts did not have the means to finance the expansion or upgrade of school facilities, and so relied on these federal programs for funding and/or labor. The WPA was the largest New Deal agency and is estimated to have directly employed almost 8 million workers between 1935 and 1943. The PWA was generally seen as a less controversial New Deal agency because the PWA financed public works projects to be completed by private firms through a matching grant program, rather than directly hiring the unemployed. In terms of spending, roads projects were the largest PWA expenditure, with school buildings receiving the second largest funding allotment. PWA involvement with the construction of the Bent County High School addition is more intensive as compared to the WPA, and also illustrates the funding cycles of the PWA as President Roosevelt's administration responded to the dire national economic situation.

The 1947 FFA building, designed in a utilitarian style by the architectural firm of Thomas and Sweet, was originally built to serve the needs of the vocational agricultural program at the high school as shop and classroom space at a construction cost of \$19,000. Born in 1876 Charles Thomas studied under and worked with several prominent Colorado architects, including Robert Roeschlaub and Thomas MacLaren, before starting his private practice in 1917. He worked extensively in the Colorado Springs area, and is credited for a number of National Register-listed buildings, including the Shrine of the Sun, the Baldwin House, the Colorado Springs Auditorium and the Orchard House at Chambers Ranch. He did work outside of Colorado Springs, including the Carnegie Library in Boulder, the Salida Public Library, and the Central School Auditorium and Gymnasium, all on the National Register of Historic

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Places. In 1946, Thomas joined Gordon Sweet and started the architectural firm, Thomas and Sweet. Gordon Sweet was born in 1907 in Michigan, moving to Colorado Springs in 1945—a year before his partnership with Thomas. He was a member of the Colorado Society of the American Institute of Architects for more than 23 years and served as President of the organization in 1969. After Thomas' death in 1957, Sweet continued in private practice until his death in 1970. A 1948 Bent County High School yearbook reports that vocational agriculture was a "four year course" offered to "farm boys who intend to make farming their vocation." It was further reported that: "The boys devote about one half of their time in the farm shop where welding, farm carpentry, soldering and auto mechanics are taught. The remaining time is spent in the class room where students learn the new and practical practices related to raising livestock and crops." The building was still in use by the vocational agriculture program in 1954; the 1954 yearbook includes images from inside the building, and mentions that "attractive facilities are provided for instruction." At some date after 1954, the FFA building was transitioned for use as a storage and maintenance facility for the school district.

The Bent County High School is significant under Criterion C in the area of **Architecture** as a distinctive historic architect-designed building in the city of Las Animas. The original section of the school building reflects the Classical Revival style through its symmetrical design, full-height entry porch supported by fluted Ionic columns, elaborate cornice with dentils beneath overhanging eaves, and wide paneled frieze. The impressive nature of the Classical Revival style was well suited to institutional, educational architecture. The building was designed by Walter Dubree, a local architect based out of La Junta, Colorado. Practicing in the Classical styles, Dubree's existing works in Otero and Bent Counties include the National Register-listed 1909 Carnegie Library in Rocky Ford, the 1914 National Register-listed North La Junta School, and the 1909 State Register-listed King Solomon's Lodge in Las Animas.

Born in October 1872, Dubree received his architectural training through the International Correspondence School (ICS), a popular "distance learning" option at the time. He completed coursework in architectural studies in 1899 and in electrical engineering in 1902, but had received neither a certificate nor diploma by 1908 for either course of study. He is listed as a paint and wallpaper distributor while living in La Junta from 1912 until 1915, presumably this line of work was supplementary to his architectural career. By 1916, Dubree had moved with his wife to Phoenix, Arizona where he served as a construction superintendent for the Phoenix Indian School, a boarding school run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Construction documents relating to a bridge project in 1921 refer to Dubree as the former superintendant of construction. Phoenix business directory records indicate that by 1930 Dubree was a distributor of building specialties, including, "metal lath, steel sash, steel rolling doors, steel toilet enclosures." Dubree died on January 5, 1951, his occupation listed as engineer.

The restrained 1939 addition with minimal, modern ornamentation was designed by Walter DeMordaunt in collaboration with John Gray, both architects based in Pueblo, Colorado. Educated at the University of Utah, DeMordaunt moved to Pueblo in 1920 and opened his own architectural firm by 1926. He was a prolific architect working with PWA projects in southeastern Colorado and often collaborated with Gray on PWA projects. He designed numerous educational buildings and school building additions, including an addition to the Columbian School formerly located in Las Animas. DeMordaunt's other

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

works designated as historic include the National Register-listed Lincoln School in La Junta (5OT.95), the United States Post Office in Lamar (5PW.43), and buildings in his hometown of Pueblo, including the Y.W.C.A. Building (5PE.504), *Star Journal* Model Home (5PE.4216), and McClelland Orphanage (5PE.4217). The Colorado State Register-listed, Art Deco Chaffee County Courthouse in Salida (5CF.850) is also attributed as his design.

Historical Background

Las Animas, the county seat of Bent County, began as a town on the Atchinson, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, built close to the path of the Santa Fe Trail in the 1870s. The rail line reached Las Animas in 1873. The influence of the railroad encouraged rapid increase in the population of Bent County, rising from 592 residents reported in the 1870 census to 1,654 in 1880. The City of Las Animas incorporated in 1886. Located in the Arkansas River Valley, the dominant industry in the area was agriculture. Among the oldest school districts in the state of Colorado, Las Animas School District 1, comprised of the Las Animas, Frey, Memorial, and Columbian schools, was organized 1876.

Las Animas School District 1 maintained a high school in the City of Las Animas under a County High School law authorizing the county seat to fund a high school through a two mill tax. The levy was used only to pay salaries, since an earlier \$12,000 bond funded the construction of the "Frey" high school building, which included salvaged materials from the demolished Bent County Hospital Building. With pressure from a rapidly expanding population and overcrowded schools, the county high school district opted in 1913 to begin construction of a new high school facility, the Bent County High School.

An article of the *Las Animas Leader* from March 28, 1913 describes the crowded conditions of the former high school:

Conditions in the grades are intolerable and are no better in the high school. The enrollment in the high school has increased from 56 to 101 in one year, with only 53 seats in the assembly room. There are only three classrooms for 5 teachers, thus necessitating the use of the chemical laboratory and assembly room for classrooms.

The *Bent County Democrat* was less moderate in tone, writing on March 14, 1913: "In some of the rooms two scholars use the same desk, and seats have been increased in others until there is little space left for the teacher to move around." The article concluded: "Everybody loves children, and every man who is proud of his county will not refuse to dig up a good big portion of his worldly wealth for the education of our future statesmen, captains of industry and their wives and sweethearts."

A countywide vote to authorize a \$35,000 bond for school construction was held in May 1913. The vote received overwhelming support from the residents of Las Animas, but faced opposition in several of the county's smaller localities. Unable to offset the support of the county seat, the bond passed. An article in the *Bent County Democrat* from May 9, 1913 claimed that: "the question of organizing the county into a high school district carried by a good big majority." Contract for the design of the building was awarded

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

to Walter Dubree, an architect practicing in Bent and Otero Counties, and construction of the building was undertaken by James Larson of Las Animas, who offered the lowest bid at \$31,588.

Though all secondary sources consulted record Larson as the architect, primary sources, including local newspapers and minutes of the Las Animas School Board from 1913, record Dubree as the architect with Larson as the contractor. Minutes from the July 7, 1913 building committee meeting report that four architects were considered for the contract to design the school -- Robertson of Denver, Gile of Pueblo, Dubree of La Junta and Redding of Denver, and that a "majority of the committee decided they liked the plans presented by Mr. Redding the best." However, according to minutes from a subsequent meeting on July 24: "[the] committee decided that since no one plan seemed to meet all the needs and tastes of the committee, it would be best to retain Mr. Dubree as he is located in La Junta and it would be easy for the committee to meet with him from time to time and he would be better able to supervise the work of the building." Further evidence includes a September 12, 1913 article in the *Las Animas Leader* which states: "Architect Walter Dubree has the plans well under way and will have them ready for the use of the contractors before another week and it is hoped by the board to have the contract let before October 10."

Site work for construction of the high school began in October 1913. City Engineer Will Murphy staked out the building on October 7, and the "first dirt was thrown by the students of the High School" the following day (*Las Animas Leader*, 10 Oct 1913). The article goes on to report that: "Contractor Larson will make things hum, for he has the incentive of a premium of \$10 per day for every day he has the building completed before July 10, 1914. The building was formally dedicated on September 4, 1914.

The 1914 Bent County High School was designed to accommodate approximately 200 students. The building included an assembly room, laboratory, home economics room, and a manual training room. By the mid-1930s, the high school had again exceeded its capacity and the need for expansion was evident.

Feeling pressure from an expanding student body, Bent County School District 1 took advantage of New Deal programs to expand the high school building. In January 1937, the Bent County Board of Directors approved plans for an addition to the high school building. Walter DeMordaunt of Pueblo prepared the design. The addition would include four additional classrooms, improved toilet facilities, an assembly room, and an industrial arts room. With the addition, the high school would be able to hold over 400 students. The cost of the new addition along with alterations to a school branch at McClave was estimated at \$115,000. The school district applied for a PWA grant for 45% of the cost and held an election to approve bonds for the remainder. The PWA grant, however, was not approved and in January 1938 the school district began planning to go ahead with a reduced construction plan using the \$66,000 approved in the bond election. The school district turned to the WPA for assistance, receiving WPA project assistance to dig the building foundations.

The 1939 addition to the Bent County High School addition utilized "a WPA crew of 30 men" to complete foundation work, according to the April 22, 1938 edition of the *Bent County Democrat*. WPA records for the foundation project reflect a federal investment in materials and labor of \$5,129.00, with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

sponsor (school district) funds totaling \$3,894 to pour 390 cubic yards of concrete, excavate 1760 cubic yards of dirt, and place 600 cubic yards of backfill. Soon after work was underway, news arrived in April 1938 that the PWA had revived the building program and approved the \$54,000 grant. The plans for the addition and improvements were again revised to reflect the larger \$120,000 budget.

Construction began in September 1938. The main building contract was awarded to Platt Rogers Construction Company of Pueblo for \$66,000. The Johnson & Davis Company of Denver had the heating and plumbing contract for \$15,000. Isaac Chippendale of Denver had a sub-contract for the brick work. Collier Electric and Radio Co. of Denver got the contract for electrical work for \$6,000. The new auditorium was completed first, opening for public inspection with an inaugural faculty play in early April 1939. The combination auditorium/gymnasium included a stage, basketball court, balcony, and dressing rooms. The auditorium could hold around 900 with 382 sitting on bleachers in the balcony and the remainder in folding chairs on the gym floor. For athletic events, temporary seating could be placed on the stage. The front wing of the building housed the home economics department, library, and a regular classroom. The principal's office was located on the second floor of the addition and was equipped with a two-way speaking system that could be used to speak to the classrooms as well as to tune in to any class. An office and meeting room for the superintendent and school board were located on the first floor. Additional restroom facilities were provided on both floors. The project also included improvements to the main high school building including converting the old library on the third floor to classrooms, old offices into restrooms, and the old restrooms into storage.

In an article in the *Bent County Democrat* in May 1939, school staff and civic leaders praised the new building. According to the principal, the new auditorium/gymnasium addition would provide students a better-rounded program as well as a space to spend leisure time. The new building would also meet the needs of the town: "community groups will be able to arrange large gatherings with the assurance of a place large enough to accommodate the audience. Las Animas will be in a position to invite conventions and conferences to meet here." The director of physical education praised the structure for its "consideration of convenience, beauty, and cleanliness." The praise of the music and drama departments lauded both the benefit to students of having a good performance space as well as providing entertainments for the community and a better relationship between the community and the school. According to the mayor, the new building was "one of which we are justly proud, both from a point of civic beauty and also of utility. Modern in every respect and providing ample room to take proper care of classes and pupils. The fine auditorium which has long been a need in this community is now a realization." All seemed to agree that the building served a need for a community facility for drama, concerts, dances, and athletics that could be enjoyed by students and residents. The new building was dedicated on May 14, 1939 with the architects and a PWA engineer in attendance.

The WPA also sponsored several projects to improve the high school athletic field including laying a sod field and track, building a grandstand and club house; none of these remain extant. In 1961, the Bent County School District was divided and the school renamed the Las Animas High School. A new high school was constructed in 1967. At this time the Bent County High School building became the Las Animas Middle School. It continued to serve as the middle school until the late 1990s, when a new

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 13

school was constructed. During the recent restoration of Bent County Courthouse, some county departments used the WPA/PWA addition for office space. Currently the building is vacant, aside from occasional use by district sports teams for practice in the gymnasium.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 14

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

Arizona State Business Directory : Including El Paso, Texas, and Los Angeles and Other Cities
Classifications : Including Live Stock Department, Wool Growers' Department. Classified
Department. 1930. Denver, Colo. Gazetteer Pub. & Print. Co. 1930.

"BCHS Board Revises Building Plans for \$54,000 PWA Grant," *Bent County Democrat*, April 22, 1938.

"BCHS Board Will Ask Permission to Start Building Program," *Bent County Democrat*, January 7,
1938.

"Bent County High School," *Bent County Democrat*, April 18, 1913.

Bent County High School, "Minutes of the Board of Education," Meeting of July 7, 1913.

____. "Minutes of the Board of Education," Meeting of July 24, 1913.

____. "Minutes of the Board of Education," Meeting of October 6, 1913.

____. "Minutes of the Board of Education," Meeting of December 28, 1936

____. "Minutes of the Board of Education," Meeting of April 21, 1938.

____. "Minutes of the Board of Education," Meeting of May 2, 1938.

Bent County High School. The Trojan 1948 Yearbook.

____. The Trojan 1954 Yearbook.

Colorado State Business Directory. Gazetteer Publishing Company. Denver, Colorado. 1912

Colorado State Business Directory. Gazetteer Publishing Company. Denver, Colorado. 1913

Colorado State Business Directory. Gazetteer Publishing Company. Denver, Colorado. 1914

Colorado State Business Directory. Gazetteer Publishing Company. Denver, Colorado. 1915

"County High School Election," *Las Animas Leader*, May 9, 1913.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 15

Death Certificate for Walter Dubree. January 5, 1951. File No. 132, Arizona State Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics.

"Dedication of New BCHS Building Will Be Sunday," *Bent County Democrat*, May 12, 1939.

"Directors Approve Architect's Plans for BCHS Addition," *Bent County Democrat*, January 1, 1937.

"Gym-Auditorium Fill Pressing Need in Hi School System," *Bent County Democrat*, May 12, 1939.

"High School Bonds Carry," *Las Animas Leader*, July 25, 1913.

"High School Bond Election," *Las Animas Leader*, July 18, 1913.

"High School Bonds Sold," *Bent County Democrat*, October 10, 1913.

"High School Contract Let," *Las Animas Leader*, October 10, 1913.

"High School Dedication," *Las Animas Leader*, September 4, 1914.

"High School Questions," *Las Animas Leader*, May 2, 1913.

"High School Site Selected," *Las Animas Leader*, September 12, 1913.

"High School Under Way," *Las Animas Leader*, September 25, 1914.

"Just Boys and Girls," *Bent County Democrat*, July 31, 1914.

"Need New School Building," *Bent County Democrat*, March 14, 1913.

"New \$120,000 High School Addition is Opened," *Bent County Democrat*, April 7, 1939.

"Our City Schools," *Las Animas Leader*, March 28, 1913.

Sargent, C.G. *The Rural and Village Schools of Colorado, An Eight Year Survey of Each School District*. Colorado Agricultural College, 1914.

"School Bond Election," *Bent County Democrat*, July 25, 1913.

"School Year Begins," *Las Animas Leader*, September 11, 1914.

"Questions and Answers Regarding Proposed BCHS Building Program," *Bent County Democrat*, February 5, 1937.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 16

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, PWA Project File.
WPA Narrative Report, Project #3200. September 7, 1938

"Work is Under Way on High School Unit," *Bent County Democrat*, September 23, 1938.

Secondary Sources

Bent County (Colorado) history. Book Committee, Holly Publishing Company. 1987

Christman, Abbey. Bent County High School (5BN.382), Architectural Inventory Form. Denver: Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado, The Colorado Historical Society, June 2006.

The Native American, Volume 7. Published by Phoenix Indian School. Phoenix, Arizona. January 9, 1916.

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society. "DeMordaunt, Walter." Colorado Architects Biographical Sketch. Denver: 2004. <http://www.coloradohistory-oahp.org/guides/architects/demordaunt.pdf>

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society. "Thomas, Charles E." Colorado Architects Biographical Sketch. Denver: 2001. <http://www.coloradohistory-oahp.org/guides/architects/thomas.pdf>

Senate Reports (Public) Volume 1. Government Printing Office. Washington DC. 1922

Steffes, Tracy L. "Solving the "Rural School Problem:" New State Aid, Standards, and Supervision of Local Schools, 1900-1933." *History of Education Quarterly* 48 (2008): 181-220.

Wolfenbarger, Deon. *New Deal Resources on Colorado's Eastern Plains*. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. Denver: Colorado Preservation, Inc., 2005. On file at the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado, The Colorado Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 17

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary for the Bent County High School includes all the land in Block 107, Lots 13-30 of the original City of Las Animas.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This above-named boundary includes all the land and buildings historically associated with the school complex.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 18

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to all photograph numbers except as noted:

Photographer: Patrick Eidman and Jonas Landes, Colorado Preservation, Inc., and
Astrid Liverman, History Colorado, The Colorado Historical Society
Date of Photographs: August 2009 and February 2010
Negatives: Digital TIFs on file with National Park Service, Washington, D.C. and
History Colorado, The Colorado Historical Society

Photo No.	Photographic Information (see attached sketch map)
1	View on main (south) façade of 1914 building from southeast corner walkway (Ambassador Thompson Boulevard CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_0001
2	View of west façade, 1914 building CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_0002
3	View of north façade, 1914 building CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_0003
4	View of south façade of connector between 1914 building and 1939 PWA addition CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_0004
5	View of main (south) façade entrance, 1914 building CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_0005
6	View of interior second-story classroom, 1914 building CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_0006
7	View of interior first-floor classroom, 1914 building CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_0007
8	View of PWA 1939 addition east façade from Poplar Avenue CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_0008
9	View of PWA 1939 addition gymnasium entrance, east façade, Poplar Avenue CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_0009
10	View of PWA 1939 addition main entrance, east façade, Poplar Avenue CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_00010
11	View of PWA 1939 addition, west façade CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_00011
12	View of northwest corner, PWA 1939 addition CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_00012
13	View of PWA 1939 addition, gymnasium interior (balcony with seating) CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_00013
14	View of PWA 1939 addition, gymnasium interior (stage) CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_00014
15	View of 1947 FFA building, southeast corner CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_00015

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 19

- 16 View of 1947 FFA building, south façade
CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_00016
- 17 View of 1914 building, southwest corner
CO_BentCounty_BentCountyHighSchool_00017

Historic Photo Log

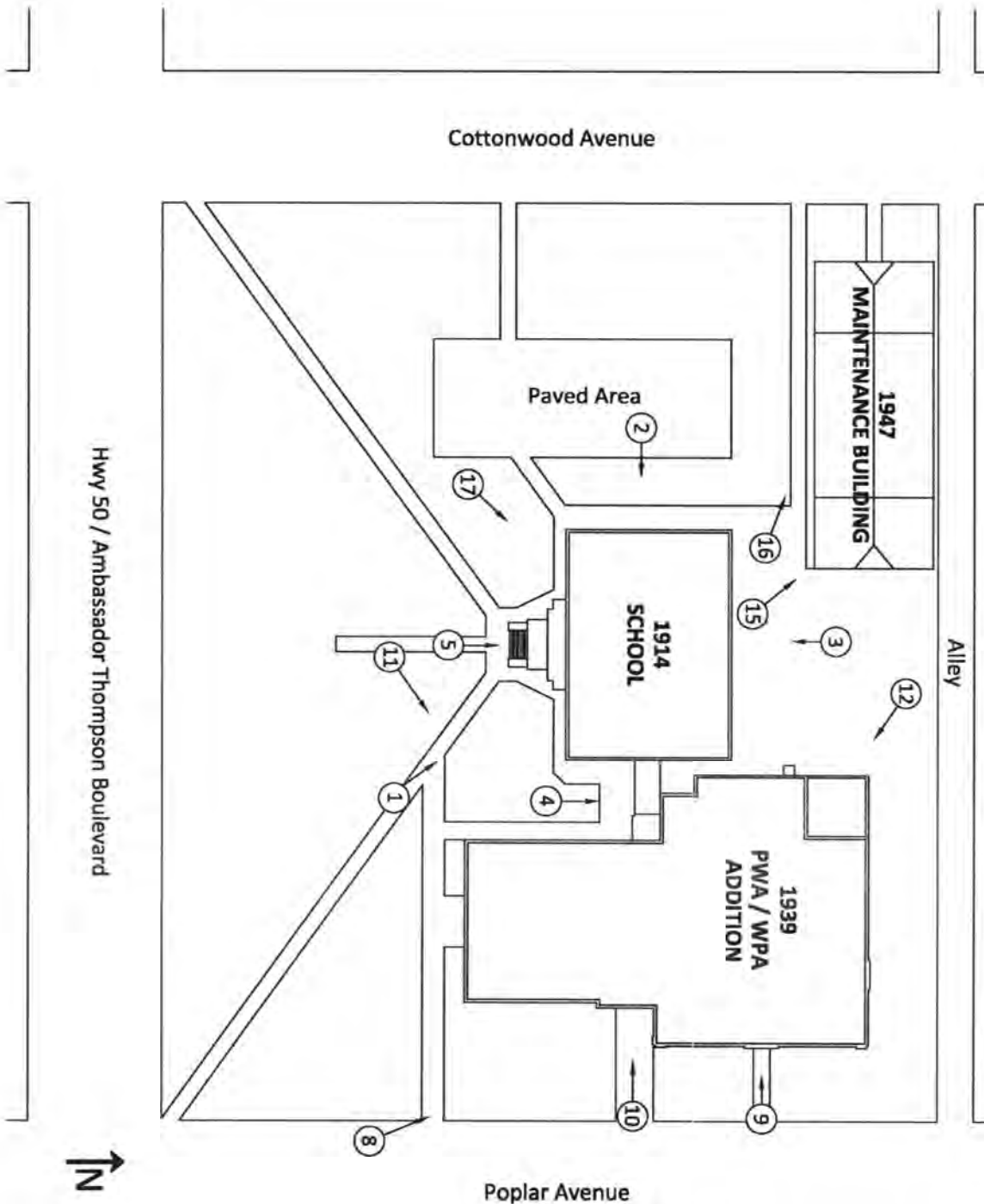
<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
H1	Main entrance, east façade, PWA addition Source: <i>The Trojan 1948 Yearbook</i> , Bent County High School
H2	Connection between 1914 building and PWA addition Source: <i>The Trojan 1947 Yearbook</i> , Bent County High School
H3	FFA Building Source: <i>Bent County (Colorado) history</i>
H4	PWA addition, east façade Source: <i>Bent County (Colorado) history</i>
H5	1914 building and PWA addition from southeast corner across the street Source: <i>Bent County (Colorado) history</i>
H6	Future Farmers of America, Bent Chapter, in front of FFA Building Source: <i>The Trojan 1952 Yearbook</i> , Bent County High School
H7	1914 building, undated postcard with hand annotation referencing Dodge City, Kansas Source: Personal collection, Bent County Preservation Society
H8	FFA Building Source: <i>The Trojan 1954 Yearbook</i> , Bent County High School
H9	Student Council in front of PWA addition, east façade Source: <i>The Trojan 1951 Yearbook</i> , Bent County High School
H10	Student group at main entrance, 1914 building Source: <i>The Trojan 1944 Yearbook</i> , Bent County High School
H11	Student group in front of FFA Building Source: <i>The Trojan 1951 Yearbook</i> , Bent County High School
H12	FFA Building, classroom interior Source: <i>The Trojan 1949 Yearbook</i> , Bent County High School

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 20



Sketch map with orientation for photo log

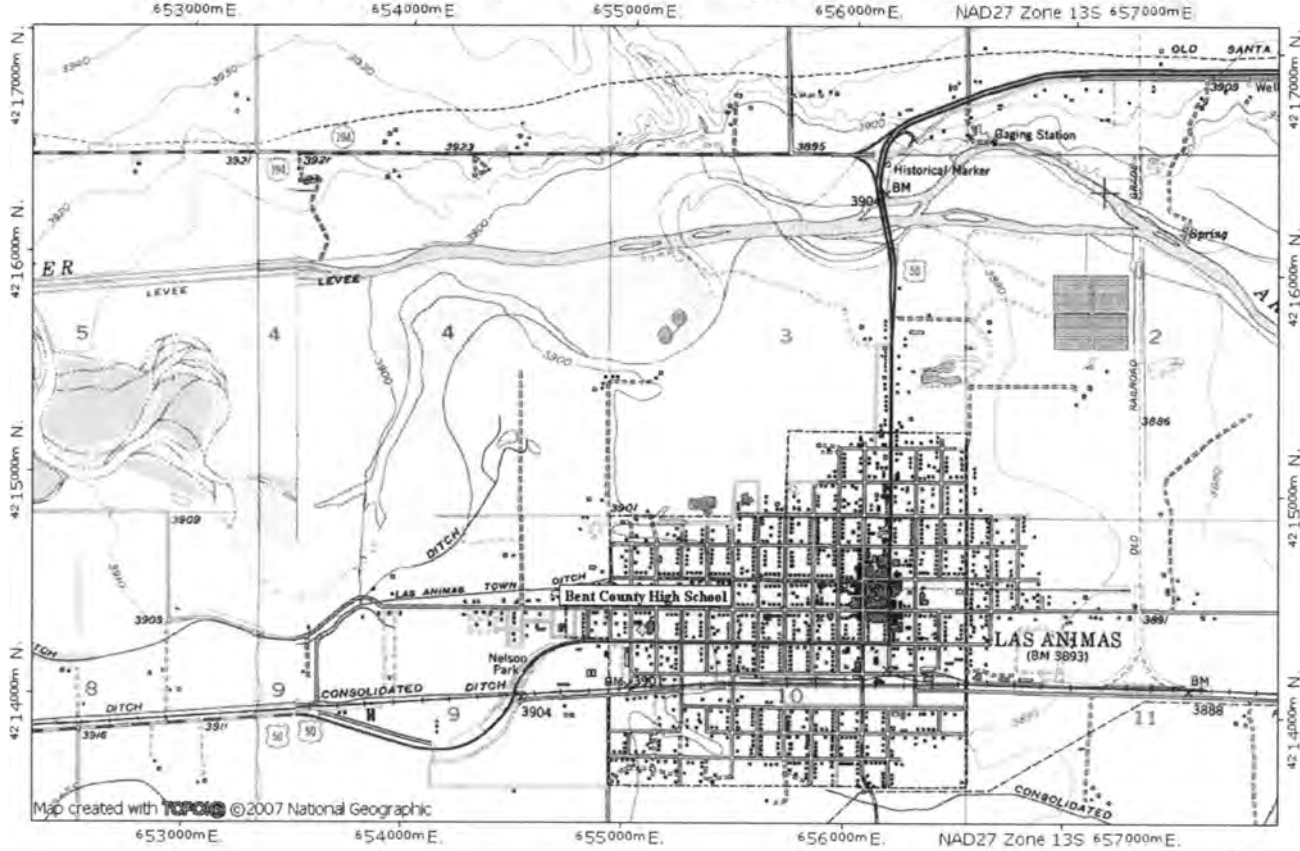
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

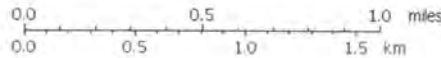
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 21

Bent County High School - 1214 Ambassador Thompson Blvd., Las Animas, Colorado



Map created with ©2007 National Geographic



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Las Animas Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

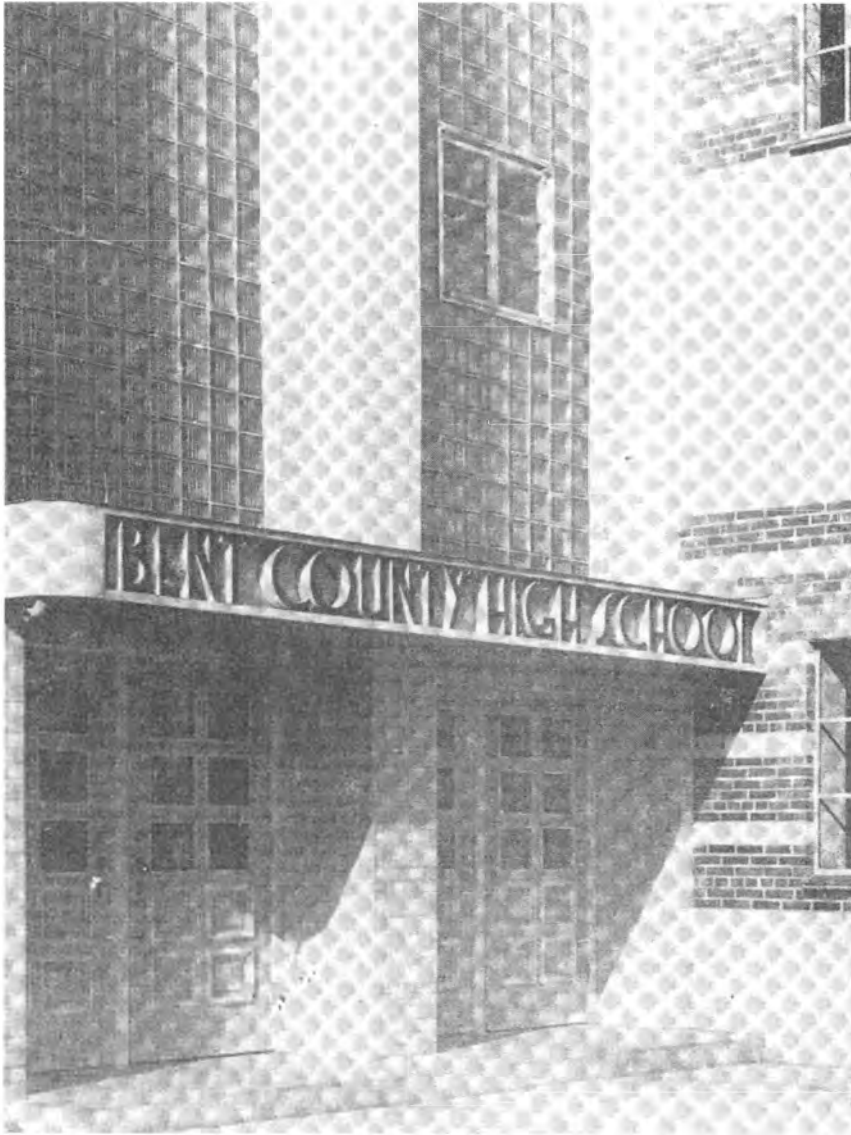
UTM: Zone 13 655 117 mE / 13 4214 357 mN
PLSS: 6th PM, T23S, R52W, Sec. 10
E 1/2 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4
Elevation: 3900 feet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

Section number 10 Page 22



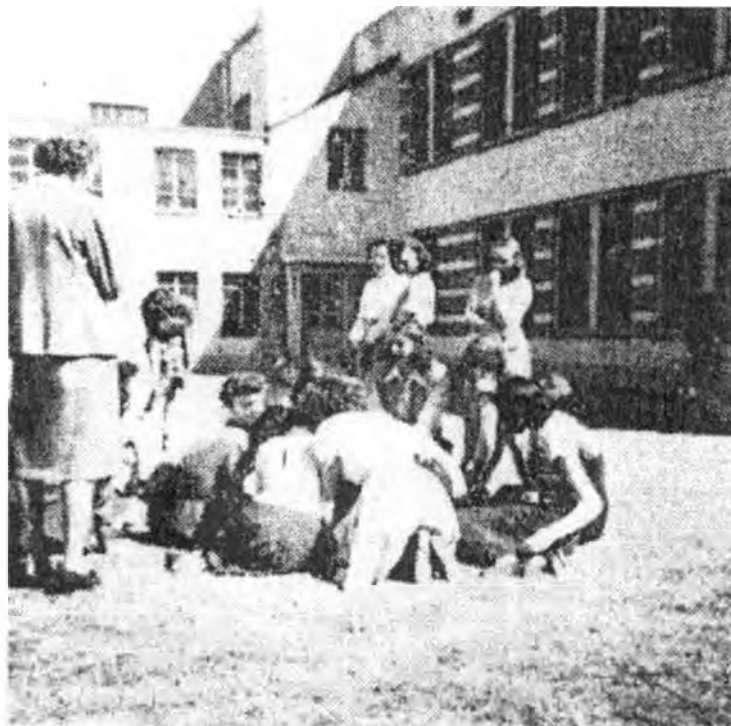
H1: Main entrance, east façade, PWA addition
Source: *The Trojan 1948 Yearbook*, Bent County High School

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

Section number 10 Page 23



H2 (at left): Connection between 1914 building and PWA addition
Source: *The Trojan 1947 Yearbook*,
Bent County High School

H3 (below): FFA Building
Source: *Bent County (Colorado) history*

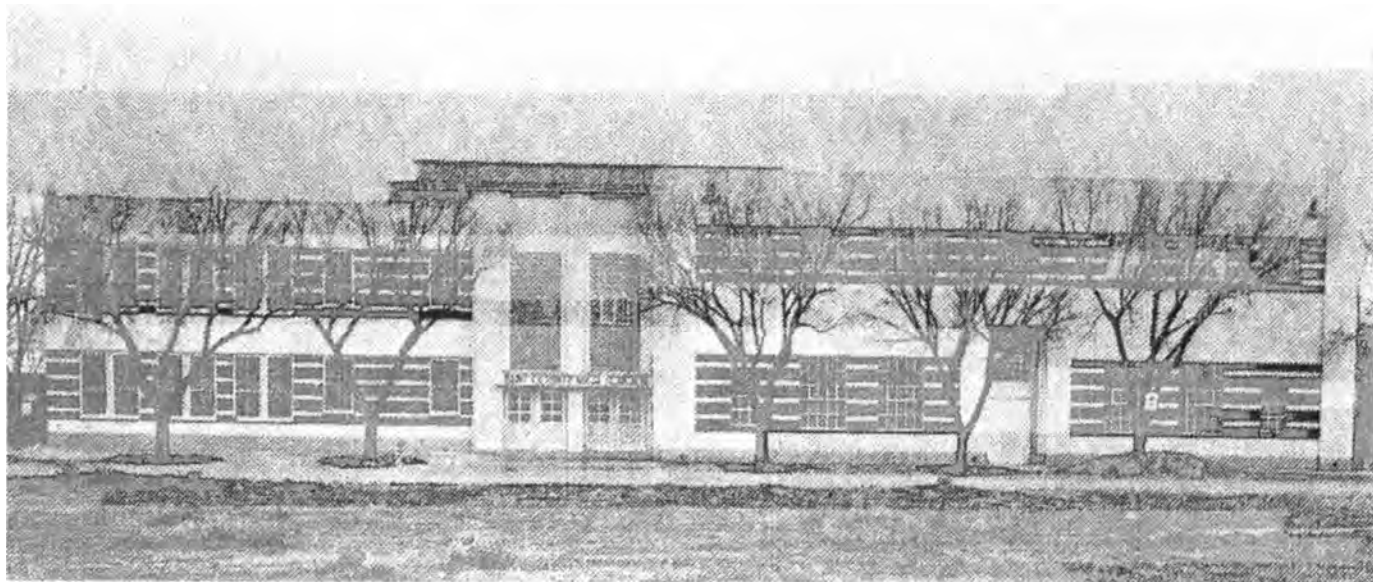


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 24



H4: PWA addition, east façade

Source: *Bent County (Colorado) history*

H5: 1914 building and PWA addition from southeast corner across Ambassador Thompson Boulevard

Source: *Bent County (Colorado) history*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

Section number 10 Page 25



H6: Future Farmers of America, Bent Chapter, in front of FFA Building
Source: *The Trojan 1952 Yearbook*, Bent County High School

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 26



H7: 1914 building, undated postcard with hand annotation from Dodge City, Kansas
Source: Personal Collection, Bent County Preservation Society

H8: FFA Building
Source: *The Trojan 1954 Yearbook*, Bent County High School

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

Section number 10 Page 27



H9 (above): Student Council in front of PWA addition, east façade
Source: *The Trojan 1951 Yearbook*, Bent County High School

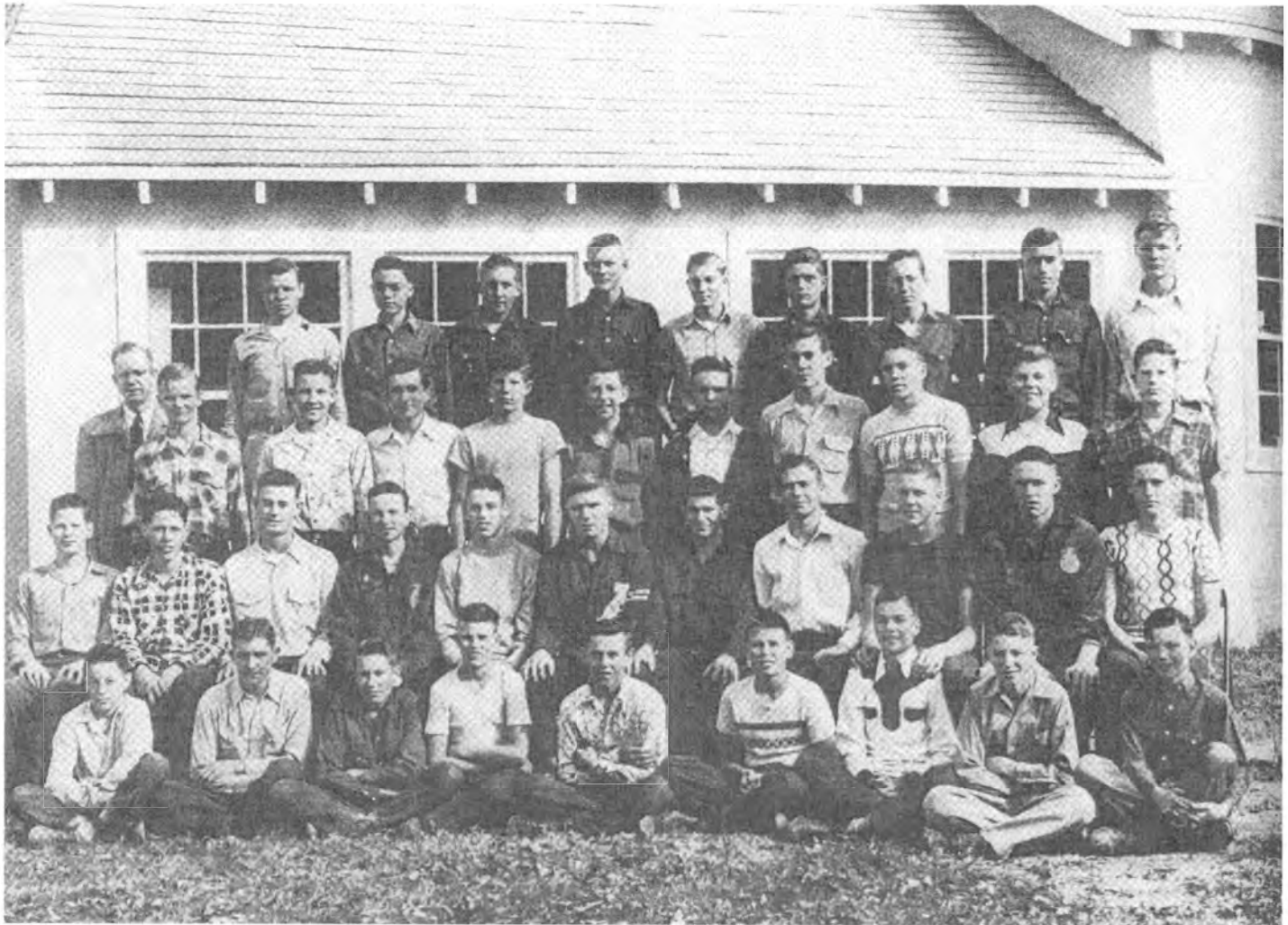
H10: Student group at main entrance, 1914 building
Source: *The Trojan 1944 Yearbook*, Bent County High School

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

Section number 10 Page 28



H11: Student group in front of FFA Building
Source: *The Trojan 1951 Yearbook*, Bent County High School

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Deal Resources
of Colorado's Eastern Plains
Bent County High School
Bent County, Colorado

Section number 10 Page 29



H12: FFA Building, classroom interior
Source: *The Trojan 1949 Yearbook*, Bent County High School

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Bent County High School
NAME:

MULTIPLE New Deal Resources on Colorado's Eastern Plains MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: COLORADO, Bent

DATE RECEIVED: 6/15/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/15/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/30/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/30/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000505

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7-30-10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



CO - Bent County - Bent County High
School - 0001

5BN. 382

Las Animas, Colorado



CO - Bent County - Bent County High
School - 0002

5 BN. 382
Las Animas, Colorado



CO - Bent county - Bent county High
School - 0003

FBN. 362
Las Animas, Colorado



CO_ Bent County - Bent County High
School - 0004

5 BN. 382
Las Animas, Colorado



CO - Bent County - Bent County High
School - 0085

5 BN. 382

Las Animas, Colorado



CO - Bent County - Bent County High School
- 0006

5 BN. 382
Las Animas, Colorado

16, A162, 05/12/10

087749, Bent County High School 006.003



Co. Bent County - Bent County High School -
0007

5 BN. 382

Las Animas, Colorado

1017, A12, 05/12/10


77749, Bent County High School 007-003



CO - Bent county - Bent county High School -
0008

5 BN. 382

Las Animas, Colorado

A black and white photograph of a two-story school building with a weathered, peeling facade. The building has a central entrance with a dark frame and a white door. Above the entrance is a row of seven small, dark rectangular windows. To the left of the entrance, the words "LAS ANIMAS MIDDLE SCHOOL" are printed in a bold, sans-serif font. A person is standing near the base of the central entrance. In the foreground, a light-colored sedan is parked on the left and a dark SUV is parked on the right. A tall utility pole is visible on the left side of the building, and a power line runs across the sky. The overall scene is somewhat desolate due to the building's condition.

**LAS ANIMAS
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

CO - Bent County - Beat County High School -
0009

5 BN. 382

Las Animas, Colorado



CO - Bent County - Bent County High
School - 0010

5 BN. 382

Las Animas, Colorado

6587749, Bent County High School, 010-0010

Mof, A1362, 05/12/10



CO - Bent County - Bent County High School -

0011

5 BN. 382

Las Animas, Colorado

1017, April 22, 05/12/10

587749, Bent County High School 011-003



CO - Bent County - Bent County High School -
0012

5 BN. 382

Las Animas, Colorado



WELCO 11

CO - Bent County - Bent County High School -
0013

5 BN. 382

Las Animas, Colorado



CO - Bent county - Bent county High School
- 0014

5 BN. 382

Las Animas, Colorado



CO - Bent County - Bent County High School
- 0015

5 BN. 382

Las Animas, Colorado



CO - Bent County - Bent County High School
- 0016

5 BN. 382

Las Animas, Colorado



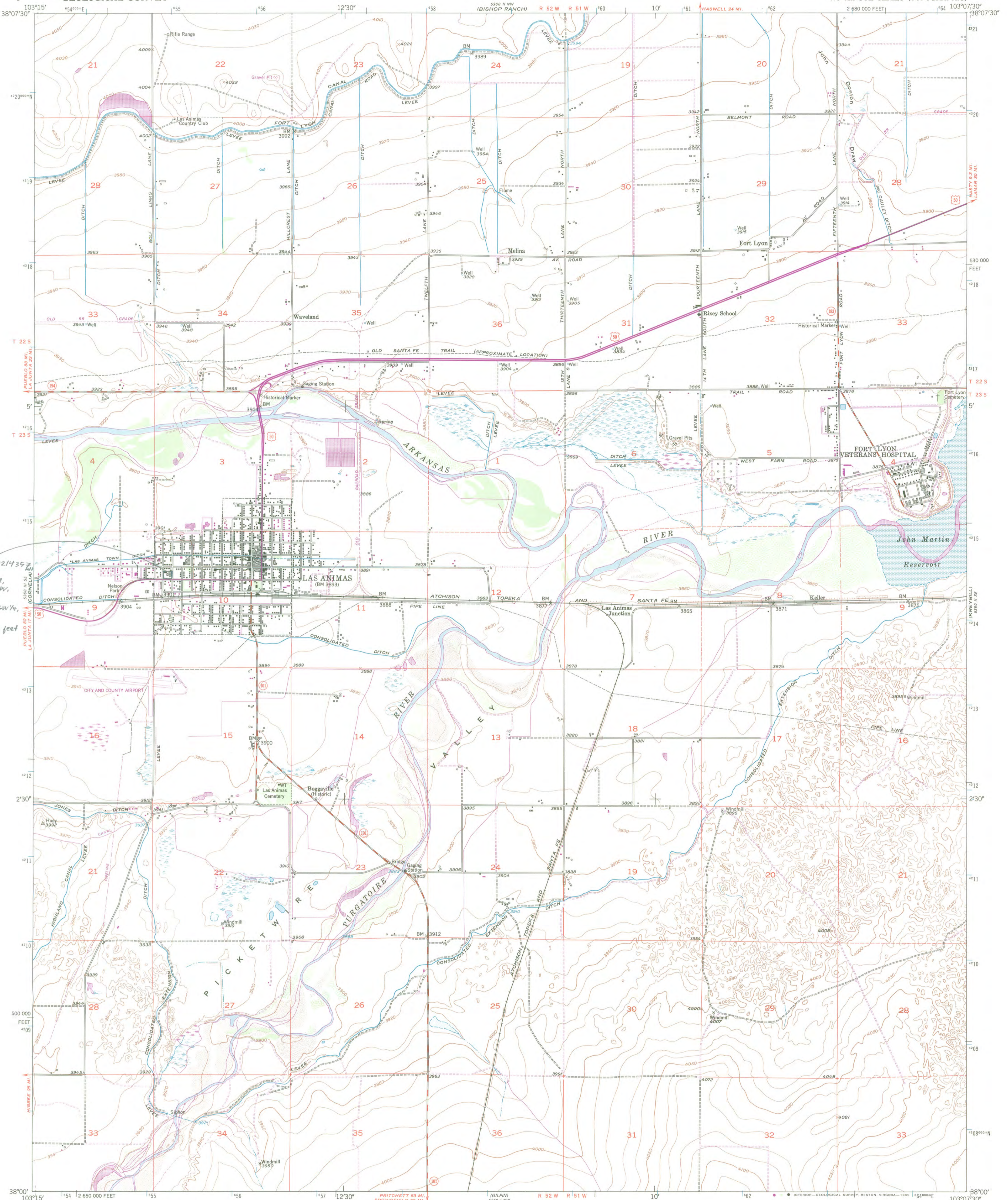
CO - Bent county - Bent county High School
- 0017

5 B.N. 382

Las Animas, Colorado

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

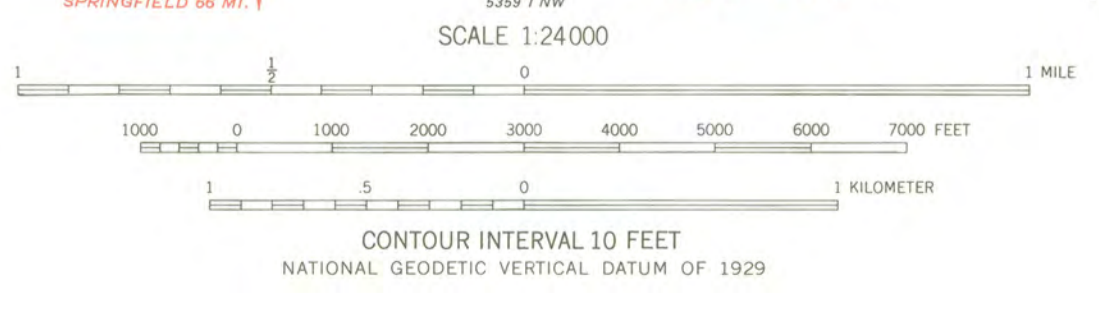
LAS ANIMAS QUADRANGLE
COLORADO—BENT CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



UTM
13 655117 421435
DLSS: 6th PM,
T23S, R52W,
Sec. 10
E 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4,
NW 1/4
elevation: 3900 feet

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1947. Topography by plane-table surveys 1953
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum
10,000-foot grid based on Colorado coordinate system,
south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks
zone 13, shown in blue
Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject
to controlled inundation

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 3 meters north and
43 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



LAS ANIMAS, COLO.
38103-A2-TF-024
1953
PHOTOREVISED 1979
DMA 5360 II SW-SERIES V877

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1975 and other source data.
This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

LAS ANIMAS
ISSN # 060712307 CO 024
TF
7866074223051



HISTORY *Colorado*

June 8, 2010

Ms. Carol Shull
Interim Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, N.W. 8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington, D.C. 20005-5905



Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to submit for your review the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Bent County High School (5BN.382), located at 1214 Ambassador Thompson Boulevard in Las Animas.

The State Review Board considered the nomination at its meeting on May 7, 2010. The board voted unanimously to recommend to the State Historic Preservation Officer that the property met the criteria for listing in the National Register.

We look forward to the formal listing of this property. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 303-866-4681 or by e-mail at astrid.liverman@chs.state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Astrid M. B. Liverman, Ph.D.
National and State Register Coordinator

Enclosures

Registration forms
USGS map
Photographs

THE COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY