

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Coates Creek Schoolhouse
other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: DS Road (County Road) (NA) not for publication
city, town: 16 M. West-Glade Park Store & Post Office (x) vicinity
state: Colorado code: CO county: Mesa code: 077 zip code: 81523

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
() private	(x) building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
(x) public-local	() district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
() public-State	() site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
() public-Federal	() structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	() object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.
() See continuation sheet.

[Signature] December 11, 1992
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historic Preservation Officer, 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.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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.
- () other, (explain:) _____

Entered in the
National Register

[Signature] 2/3/93

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION/School
SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)
SOCIAL/ Meeting Hall
WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Pioneer Log

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

foundations STONE AND CONCRETE
walls WOOD/Log

roof ASPHALT
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance

The Coates Creek school is a rural, one room log schoolhouse. It is located in northwest Colorado 16 miles west of the Glade Park Store on the banks of Coates Creek beside the county road known as DS. It sits in a small valley where it is surrounded by sandstone rims, pinion covered hills and sagebrush flats. There are several ranches with alfalfa fields and pastures near by.

This rectangular, one story building sits on a rock and concrete foundation. The dimensions are twenty-nine feet and nine inches (29'9") by twenty-five feet and six inches (25'6") and eight feet high (8').

The main building is constructed of peeled whole logs with trough corners and it is chinked with strips of logs and daubed with a cement mixture. The extended cloak room is of wood two by fours and tongue-in-groove type log siding. The original building was built in 1919 by Elwood Brouse. It was disassembled log by log in 1926 and moved one and one-half miles southwest so that it might be located closer to the main road and be more accessible to a growing number of students in the area. At that time it was enlarged to the dimensions mentioned above. Evidence of this extension can be seen by a line between the two windows (see Photo #2). The cloakroom was added in 1942 and the interior was lined with one-half inch stained plywood. In recent years this has been painted. There are two outside doors and one interior door. The pitched roof consists of one by twelve boards nailed to the log beams, covered with asphalt rolled roofing. The roofing is old and beginning to blow off.

(x) See continuation sheet

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Coates Creek School, Mesa County, Colorado

In the interior, the floor is tongue-in-groove Fir. There is a large blackboard on the south wall (see Photo #5) and a counter with a sink and hand operated water pump on the north wall (see Photo #6).

The water is supplied by a cistern near the northwest corner of the building. The cistern is in need of repair. The building is in good condition except for several deteriorating logs and some of the cement daubing needs replacing (see Photo #2).

On the grounds there are two privies and a very old swing set which is constructed of very large cedar posts and consisting of a chair swing, horizontal bar and rings.

In 1988 a group of former students erected a flag pole and a sign (see Photo #1).

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: () nationally () statewide (x) locally
Applicable National Register Criteria (x) A () B (x) C () D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) () A (x) B () C () D () E () F () G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

SOCIAL HISTORY

1919-1942

1919, 1926, 1942

ARCHITECTURE

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Brouse, Elwood

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Coates Creek School is historically significant under criterion A for its role as a focus of community life for the residents of the remote area near the Colorado and Utah border. The building was moved during its period of significance therefore criterion consideration B applies. This move was to continue its use and reflected the changing community needs. The building type itself--a log schoolhouse--is a survivor that speaks to the history of education and community development in the area. To the best of our knowledge there are no other log one room schoolhouses in the county.

Historical Background and Significance

The Coates Creek School was the only school in a large and very remote farming and ranching area near the Colorado and Utah border. The schoolhouse was the area's single most important structure in community affairs. It was used for education from 1919 to 1971 and after 1971 for church services and Sunday school until 1985. It served as a meeting place for the women's club, the Bureau of Land Management and was the only place where the local farmers and ranchers could hold meetings. The community held dances and plays there. It served as a polling place and during World War II local residents went there to register for war ration stamps.

In 1919, Elwood Brouse, a local homesteader, constructed the original building near his home to provide schooling for his children. One child was eleven years old and had never been to school due to the remoteness of the area. Some time in the early 1920's the main road was moved away from the schoolhouse. In 1926 the building was dismantled

(x) See continuation sheet

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Coates Creek School, Mesa County, Colorado

and moved one and a half miles southwest to a location where the new road crossed Coates Creek. Because the building was so near the Colorado-Utah border, several families from Utah sent their children to Coates Creek School. Grand County Utah paid the tuition for these children to attend school. Although still one room, the schoolhouse was enlarged in 1926 to support a growing farm population. The approximate one acre plot was sold to School District No. 41 in 1938 by Mr. Oliver McCary. In 1942 a cloakroom was attached (see Photo #4) to provide a place for muddy overshoes and to hang coats and the interior of the building was also lined with plywood.

The relocation of Coates Creek School exemplifies the rural schoolhouse experience. Because of the fierce weather in western Colorado parents were eager to have schoolhouses located near their homes. Rural schools needed to be located within walking distance (or at least horseback riding distance) of the student's homes. An acre of land would be donated by a farmer or rancher who owned acreage close to families with school age children. If the families moved, the schoolhouse would often be moved closer to the remaining residents. Andrew Gulliford in America's Country Schools explains:

Brick and stone schools remained where they had been built regardless of changes in the demographics of the school district. But frame and log schools, constructed without foundations, plumbing or wiring, could be put on skids and freely moved about. In the western states, schools were regularly moved to adjacent communities to accommodate shifts in populations. In Wyoming, one log school even had numbers on the outside of the logs so that it could be easily reassembled at a new site.

Coates Creek School was the heart of the this remote Mesa County community and holds many memories of the past for the area's residents.

The building has always been heated by a wood burning stove. In the early days water was carried in a bucket from Coates Creek. Each student had his own tin cup. Later a cistern was hand dug and cemented by local citizen Joe Carns and a sink and hand pump were added (see Photo #6). Early night events were lit by gas lanterns, but in the early 1950's electricity came as far as Coates Creek and the schoolhouse was wired for lights.

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The students carried their lunches in sacks or buckets until ca. 1944, when it was decided they needed hot lunches. With donated meat and vegetables, the teacher cooked lunch on the wood stove while classes were in session.

Shortly after the schoolhouse was moved, the community used money raised through pie socials and box suppers and money donated by a prominent Utah rancher, George Gordon, to buy a piano which is still in the schoolhouse (see Photo #5). Throughout the years it has been used many times to accompany the local fiddlers and guitar players who furnished music for dances held by the local community. The piano was also used to accompany the bi-annual programs put on by the students for the entertainment of the community.

In 1951 Coates Creek and all schools in District No.41 were incorporated into School District No. 51. The school was closed in 1971 and the students were bused to Grand Junction. The building continued to be used for church and Sunday school until 1985 although it was beginning to deteriorate. In 1988 a group of former students began restoration and are holding fund raising functions at the school. The period of significance ends in 1942 in order to comply with the National Register's fifty year rule.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(X) See continuation sheet

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

Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property: Less than one acre

UTM References

A 1|2 6|7|5|4|3|0| 4|3|1|2|8|1|0|
Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

() See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(X) See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

(X) See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Betty Ann Morse
 Organization: Coates Creek School Restoration Soc. Date: September 10, 1992
 Street & Number: 2997 B 1/2 Road Telephone: 303-243-1205
 City or Town: Grand Junction State: CO Zip Code: 81503

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Coates Creek School, Mesa County, Colorado

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gulliford, Andrew, America's Country Schools, The Preservation Press, Washington, D.C., 1984.

Seeley, Mrs. Eleanor, A History of Glade Park Schools, published by School District # 51 Grand Junction, Colorado, November, 1985.

Daily Sentinel, September 16, 1973.

Interview with Duane Brouse April 13, 1992 (son of Elwood Brouse, builder of the Coates Creek School and former student). Attended Coates Creek School 1926 to 1934.

Interview with John Roehm August 1988 (one of the early students who attended school at Coates Creek from 1924 to 1932).

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Coates Creek School, Mesa County, Colorado

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

A tract of land in the Northeast quarter of Section 11, Township 13 South, Range 104 West of the 6th P.M. described as follows:

Beginning at a point 208.71 feet West of the Northeast corner of the said Northeast quarter of Section 11, Township 13 South, Range 104 West of the 6th P.M., thence South 208.71 feet, thence West 208.71 feet, thence North 208.71 feet, thence East 208.71 feet to the place of beginning, containing one acre, more or less, SUBJECT TO: established County road rights and reservations, easements and rights of way of record;

Boundary Justification:

The property includes the approximate one acre parcel historically associated with The Coates Creek Schoolhouse. The parcel was sold to School District #41 by Oliver McCary in 1938.

Property Owner

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

name Mesa County Valley School District No. 51

street & number 2115 Grand Ave telephone 303-245-2422

city or town Grand Junction state CO zip code 81501
