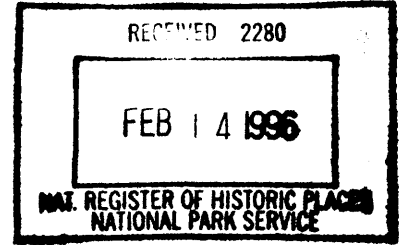


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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 any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional 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 Longfellow School
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 700 E 4th St. not for publication
city or town Raton vicinity
state New Mexico code NM county Colfax code 007 zip code 87740

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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] 2/7/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
New Mexico SHPO
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.
 other, (explain): _____

[Signature] 3/15/99
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall
Entered in the National Register

Longfellow School

Colfax, NM

Name of Property

County and 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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed the National Register

Hist. & Arch. Resources of the New Deal:NM

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

education/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

education/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Moderne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls brick
roof asphalt
other concrete

Narrative Description

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

Longfellow School
Name of Property

Colfax, NM
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in 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 achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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
Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

social history
education
architecture

Period of Significance

1939-1943

Significant Dates

1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Willard C. Kruger

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Longfellow School
Name of Property

Colfax, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 113 1550390 14083520 3. 111 11111111 11111111
2. 111 11111111 11111111 4. 111 11111111 11111111

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 David Kammer, Ph.D
organization contract historian date Sept. 30, 1995
street & number 521 Aliso Dr. NE telephone (505) 266-0586
city or town Albuquerque state NM zip code 87108

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 district 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Longfellow School
Colfax County, NM

Description

Longfellow School is a one-story elementary school with a rectilinear plan, a reinforced concrete frame and a flat roof. Modestly ornamented in the Moderne Style, the building has walls consisting of a smooth textured brown brick veneer with concrete capped parapets. The recessed front entry has a small portal and is located at the middle of a slightly stepped facade. The building has a modified T plan with a gymnasium/auditorium located behind the central corridor across from the front entry. A strip parking lot for teachers is located in front of the building on E. 4th Street with residences lining the opposite side of the street. A playground extends around the building's sides and rear. An extension with four classrooms was added to the end of the south wing in the 1960s, and a library was added at the rear southwest corner of the building in the 1970s with a canopy connecting the rear of the addition to the rear of the gymnasium/auditorium. These additions, however, do not appreciably alter the historic appearance of the building's facade nor detract from its feeling as a New Deal property.

Although the original symmetrical facade of Longfellow School has been altered with the extension of the southern wing to include four additional classrooms, the building still conveys an appearance similar to when it was completed in 1939. Three classrooms, each marked by a grouping of five 1/1 double-hung aluminum windows with projecting brick sills, flank the building's main entry to the north and five flank it to the south. Recessed entries with double doors and concrete lintels and small, slightly raised concrete porches lie at the end of both wings. The main entry is a recessed double door with a stylized portal with two square concrete support posts. Flanking the portal are two office spaces with roofs stepped slightly below the main roof line and with curved walls marked by four vertical fixed windows. Accessible from the foyer where the entry intersects the main corridor, these spaces house the nurse and principal's office.

The school's floor plan is similar to the design used in schools built as New Deal projects in many New Mexican

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7, 8 Page 2

Longfellow School
Colfax County, NM

Description (continued)

communities. It includes a central corridor flanked by classrooms. In back of the central portion of the building is a combination gymnasium/auditorium. The square brick chimney on the north side of the gymnasium marks the location of the school's mechanical room.

Longfellow School is in excellent condition and, with its additions sympathetic to the original materials and plans of the building, continues to convey the feeling of a New Deal project. Raton voters approved a bond issue in 1994 that will permit renovation of the school's heating and electrical systems and the renovation of bathrooms while retaining the historical integrity of the building.

Statement of Significance

Longfellow School, a WPA project undertaken and completed in 1939, was one of several school projects completed in Raton by the New Deal. Made possible as a part of the federal government's efforts to stimulate the nation's depressed economy through a massive public works program, the school is a good example of how the New Deal's public works projects affected the welfare of a local community by creating much-needed jobs. The project also resulted in bringing much-needed improvement to the community's educational facilities. It is eligible under Criterion A for its association with Raton's social history and education during the New Deal. Longfellow School is also eligible under Criterion C as a good example of the plans, methods of construction, materials and workmanship New Deal projects employed in carrying out hundreds of school construction projects in New Mexico.

Despite the loss of jobs that the Depression had brought to Raton's principle industries, the coal mines and the railroad, the town had continued to grow and, by the 1930s, found that its two grade schools, Longfellow and Colombian Schools, both built in 1906, were overcrowded even with additions made to both

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Longfellow School
Colfax County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

buildings in 1923. The town's leaders actively pursued school construction projects seeing new schools as creating construction jobs and relieving the schools system's chronic overcrowding. After receiving grants for two PWA school projects in 1936 and 1938, Raton was authorized to construct two additional grade schools under WPA projects funded in July and November of 1938. The former, a \$53,000 appropriation, was for construction of a new Colombian School and the latter, a \$50,000 appropriation, was for the construction of a new Longfellow School. As these projects got under way, the Raton Range noted that the town's monthly WPA payroll was at least \$18,000, a considerable boon to its depressed economy.

Initially, plans called for the razing of the old Longfellow School and constructing a new school on the same site. Officials hoped to begin the project as soon as the 1939 spring term ended, scheduling workers on two shifts to complete the work in time for the fall term. These plans changed, however, in the spring of 1939 when the AT&SF Railway made a five acre donation of railroad land to Raton. Located east of the railroad tracks near the site of the former fairgrounds, the new location enabled the project to begin sooner and to avoid using salvage from the old grade school. It also meant that the neighborhood east of the tracks, made up of many railroad workers and their families, would have a nearby school. By September, the new Longfellow School was ready for students despite work remaining to be done. With four new schools, Raton's enrollment increased, prompting E.E. Harrison, the school superintendent, to observe that many rural families were moving to the city "to give their children the advantage of the new buildings."

The plans for Longfellow School were prepared by Willard C. Kruger, the state's WPA architect who had grown up in Raton and who prepared the plans for other New Deal schools in the community. Despite his departure from the popular regional Spanish-Pueblo Revival and Territorial Revival Styles in favor of International Style ornamentation, the building's plans are similar to plans Kruger and his staff prepared for other schools

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8, 9, 10 Page 4

Longfellow School
Colfax County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

around the state. Characteristic of these plans were classrooms flanking a central corridor with a small gymnasium/auditorium attached to the rear of the building. The plans also introduced modern features including large grouped windows providing natural light, indoor plumbing, ventilation, a steam heating system, and fire safety features such as outward-swinging double doors which were largely absent in Raton's earlier grade schools.

As with other WPA projects, the Longfellow School project was labor-intensive. Its extensive use of brick masonry including the curved walls, protruding sills, and concrete parapet coping furnish a good example of the workmanship, materials and building style that marked New Mexico's New Deal schools.

Bibliography

Raton Education History (Vertical File). Courtesy of Richard Azar, Librarian, Arthur Johnson Memorial Library, Raton.

Raton Range. Various issues, 1939-1940.

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 1 of the Willow Springs Addition

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Longfellow School.