

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

126

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Upper Brush Creek School
Other names/site number: Brush Creek School / 5EA.1235
Name of related multiple property listing:
Rural School Buildings in Colorado
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Between Coulter Meadow Road and West Brush Creek Road
City or town: Eagle State: CO County: Eagle
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>A. D. R.</u>	<u>9/22/14</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	State Historic Preservation Officer
Date	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:)

Jon Gibson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

4.6.15
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

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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	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
<u>4</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education / School

Domestic / Institutional Housing

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Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant / Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th

Century American

Movements

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

foundation: Stone/Sandstone

walls: Wood

Roof: Wood/shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The 1915 Upper Brush Creek School property is located eleven miles south of the town of Eagle. It is situated in what is now Sylvan Lake State Park owned by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife. While the state park encompasses approximately 155 acres, the school property contains less than an acre in the northern portion of the park. A sharp backdrop of mountains frames and surrounds the school property. Vegetation on the property includes sagebrush, buck berry, scrub oak, mountain mahogany, thistle, native grass, and cottonwood trees on the north side. The Upper Brush Creek School property is located on the west side of a north to south trending glacial valley. Brush Creek runs in an east – west direction north of the schoolhouse, but outside the nomination boundary. The school property consists of the school, a coal shed, a collapsed building depression, and privy pits. While two of the original wood fence posts continue to extend about 5' above ground

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and exist approximately 20' to the south side of the school building, only one remnant of the two-strand non-galvanized steel barbed wire remains on eastern-most post (see photo 12). Chain link fences added within the last ten years surround the school building and the coal shed ruins, depression, and privy sites due to their condition.

Narrative Description

The following descriptions are primarily excerpted from the 2002 *Architectural Inventory Form for the Brush Creek School*, Site no 5EA.1235 by Gail E. Palmer and the 1996 *Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Forms for the Old Brush Creek Schoolhouse (5EA.1235)* by WCRM (Tom Reiter, et al).

Upper Brush Creek School building, 1915, photos 1-6

The Upper Brush Creek School is a one-story wood-frame building with a rectangular plan and a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves. The building measures 15' E/W x 30' N/S and rests on a native-uncut red-tabular sandstone foundation. The sandstone blocks have concrete mortar. The long axis of the building runs approximately east/west with the entrance facing east. The exterior of the building is covered with horizontal wood siding with corner boards extending to the full height of the building on each corner. Based on the paint that remains, it appears that the building was painted white with green trim. The roof of the building appears to be constructed with $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ " planks as sheathing covered by wood shake shingles. Currently only about 30 percent of the original shingles remain, leaving some of the interior space open to the weather.

East (main) façade

A projecting front gable full-width porch extends approximately 8' from the east façade and is approximately 2' lower than the main front gable of the east façade. Four evenly spaced square columns support the porch roof. Horizontal wood siding continues in the gabled end of the projection. The porch appears to have been screened at one time, likely when used as a logger's dormitory, although most of the associated framework and screen has been lost over the years. A wood plank floor existed as the porch floor; however, several planks are now missing. The porch measures 7'-6" x 15'-8". A circa-1930s photograph reveals vertical-wood siding on the lower portion of the porch. It is unknown if this is original, however it is no longer extant. Centered in the east façade is the only door opening in the building. Only the jambs and sills remain. The doorway measures 3'-4" wide and 6'-10" high.

North/South-facing sides

The two long sides (north/south) each have three evenly spaced window openings. Only the window jambs and sills are present, all other window components have been removed. They measure 5'-4" high and 2'-4" wide. Plywood now covers the window openings to protect the interior from the weather and vandalism. Historic photographs reveal one-over-one double-hung windows existed in the window openings.

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West-facing side

Fenestration is absent on the west-facing side. At the west end of the gabled roof peak is a small square hole that allowed for a chimney or stove pipe.

Interior

Details on the interior of the building support the idea that a coal/ wood stove was originally in the center of the main instructional area at the front of the school. A circa 1930s photograph depicts a chimney at the west end of the ridgeline. A second hole located at the center of the roof ridge appears to have been capped with tin. This may point to the original location of the wood/coal stove that would have sat in a more central location without blocking the blackboards. The interior of the building is in poor condition due to the condition of the roof. The interior walls appear to have been constructed of plaster and lath with a thin covering of cardboard/wallpaper. The floor of the building is composed of oak planks laid in a north to south direction. It is in poor condition with remnants of the fallen ceiling and roof structure littering the area. No evidence of blackboards or other furniture is present on the interior of the school.

Alterations

Although authors of a 1996 site form theorized that a small roof opening in the center ridgeline, now patched with sheet metal, represented a former cupola, no other documentation or historic photographs reveal the presence of a cupola. Another theory represented in a 2002 site form is that the small roof opening toward the center of the ridge line was the original placement of a stove pipe for a wood/coal stove near the center of the school room in an aisle. By the 1930s, the chimney was located on the west end of the roof. The chimney extended approximately 2' above the west roof line in a circa-1930 photograph. While the chimney no longer extends above the roof, remains of brick exist below the roof line. The date of removal of the chimney stack is unknown. It appears that at one time, likely while loggers used the school as housing during the 1950s-1960s, that screen and framing was added to the porch. However, this is no longer present on the porch.

Coal Shed Remains, 1915, photos 7-10

The coal shed faces east and is located approximately 50' west of the schoolhouse. It measures 10' N/S x 14'-6" E/W. An entrance door, made from horizontal wood, is toward the north end of the east-facing side. The shed roof collapsed in the last twenty years with the west portion of the interior is now covered with roofing material. Nail holes indicate the frame in the south half of the shed was once entirely covered with horizontal boards, which only extended about 2-3' up the wall. The shed is of wood-frame construction and covered with horizontal wood siding. It has a native sandstone foundation. The roof was constructed of $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ " plank sheeting and wood shake shingles. The coal shed was indicated as such by the word "COAL" painted on the inside of the door and a small

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awning window was used as the coal chute opening located on the west-facing side. Today, only the window opening exists.

Privy Pits (2), circa 1915, (photo 11)

Two small privy pit depressions are located to the northwest of the school with the first approximately 16' from the back of the school and the second approximately 22' from the back of the school. One of the privy depressions measures 3' N/S x 3' E/W and is 20" deep. The other privy pit depression measures 4' E/W x 3' N/S. It is unknown how long the privy buildings have been gone. Based on a 1996 site recordation by an archaeologist and recent photograph review by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation staff, the potential exists for yielding important information regarding the history of the school and the students, teachers and other individuals who attended functions at the property.

Collapsed Building Depression, circa 1915, no photo

Located directly north of the coal shed is a modest depression that is the site of a collapsed building. In 1996 the back wall of the building still existed, 6' high x 10' long and constructed of dimensional lumber and wire nails. The same year the building remains were removed by the Park. Although the original use of the building is unknown, information indicated that at least one teacher, Mary Bemis, lived at the school property leading to the speculation that this building may have been a teacherage. Based on a 1996 site recordation by an archaeologist and recent photograph review by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation staff, the potential exists for yielding important information regarding the history of this collapsed building, its function and whether it was used as a teacherage.

Integrity

Despite its deteriorated condition the Upper Brush Creek School still maintains historic integrity in regard to location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The school remains in its original location. The immediate setting has not changed since the school was built, major vegetation types remain the same and the school still retains the mountainous view. While there are modern park facilities including picnic shelters within the Sylvan Lake State Park, now in the view shed of the school, they are not in the nomination boundary and do not impede the overall integrity of the school property. The original design of the school is still intact with no additions to the building. The original material and workmanship remain in the building. In addition the school maintains the feeling of its original use as a one-room school and continues the look as it did nearly 100 years ago. Because the landscape is relatively unchanged and there has been little above ground activity to disturb the site, the likelihood of below ground features and their archaeological integrity is high. Finally, the building conveys its

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association with the pattern of historic education in rural Colorado mountain communities.
Fencing around each building is temporary until the buildings are restored.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Architecture

Archaeology / Historic-Non Aboriginal

Period of Significance

1915-1941

Significant Dates

1915

1941

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Upper Brush Creek School is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of education for its association with providing education to children in the Upper Brush Creek area between the years of 1915 and 1941. Additionally the Upper Brush Creek School is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good example of a Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements style building as applied to a one-room rural school building.

The property is also locally significant under Criterion D in the area of non-aboriginal historic archaeology. Two privy pits exist west of the school along with a depression of a former building. While the privy buildings are no longer extant, the pits do exist along with the likelihood of a trash midden, all of which provide a high likelihood of obscured and buried artifacts. The depression of the former building and a second depression may also have obscured and buried deposits.

The building is a good example of a rural one-room schoolhouse and meets the registration requirements of the Schoolhouse Property Type as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) *Rural School Buildings in Colorado*.

The period of significance begins in 1915 when the school opened and ends in 1941 when it closed. While the school was used during the 1950s - 1960s as a logging dormitory, the events are not directly related to the areas of significance and therefore the period of significance ends with the school closure.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A- Education

The Upper Brush Creek School (also referred simply as the Brush Creek School) opened in 1915 and functioned as a school until 1941. Initially, the closest school to the East and West Brush Creek families was in the mining camp of Fulford, about nine miles southeast from where the Upper Brush Creek School is located. When the fortunes of the mining camp faded, so did the number of Fulford students. By about 1912 or 1913 there were only a few students at the Fulford School. The trip to school was long for children who had to walk or ride horses. There was another school on Lower Brush Creek, about seven miles downstream from the forks of Brush Creek.

Concerned that there was no school in the immediate vicinity of the forks of East and West Brush Creeks, local ranchers and members of the school board found the need for a new school on the upper reaches of Brush Creek. A ballot initiative passed for the

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construction of a new school at the forks of Brush Creek. With input from the community, the school district determined to build the new school just above the fork of west Brush Creek, to be called the Upper Brush Creek School, and formed School District No. 17.

The building was constructed by volunteers including Lewis (aka Louis) Peterson, Bert Fuller, Glenn Horton, Jake Hart and Dode Potter (Brown: 35). By the spring of 1915 classes were held in the building despite it not being fully completed. However, it is not known what other work was necessary for completion.

The first teacher for the Upper Brush Creek School was Luella Harris, who hosted a picnic for the students and families on the last day of school, June 18, 1915 (*Eagle Valley Enterprise*, June 18, 1915). The school district closed the Fulford School between 1919 and 1921, and built a new school for students further down the valley in the lower Brush Creek area, aptly named Lower Brush Creek School, forming School District No. 10 (*Eagle Valley Enterprise*, June 6, 1919 and May 13, 1921).

The Upper Brush Creek School educated students in grades 1-8, although not all grades were filled each year. In the March 15, 1935 edition of the *Eagle Valley Enterprise*, the school district noted: "Our school is up. We have seven children and seven grades. We learn that our children going to Eagle [County] schools from our little school make good." The previous year only four students attended the school, while the Lower Brush Creek School reported seventeen students (*Eagle Valley Enterprise* November 30, 1934). Many schools began consolidating to larger schools beginning in the 1940s. The school district closed the Upper Brush Creek School in 1941, when teacher Mary Bemis retired. The few students who would have attended Upper Brush Creek School transferred to either the Lower Brush Creek School or the Gypsum School depending on where they lived.

Criterion C- Architecture

The Upper Brush Creek School is a good example of a Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements style building as applied to a rural one-room schoolhouse. It exhibits elements of the style in its front gabled roof, extended overhanging eaves, full-height corner boards, a covered porch with square supports and symmetrical window and door placement. The architecture of this one-room school is unusual as the height of the school allows for a large attic area. While it has not been substantiated, this area may have been used as simple living quarters for the school teachers and a site of a teacherage has not been located. Additionally, the extended porch area and extended overhanging eaves are not typical for Colorado's known one-room rural schools. The extended overhang on the eaves may have afforded snow to fall further from the building than most overhanging eaves. With the large gable roof covered porch, students could

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remove snow from their shoes before entering the building and allowed a teacher living at the school property a place for relaxation after school hours.

Criterion D – Archaeology/non-aboriginal historic archaeology

Two privies existed on northwest of the Upper Brush Creek School building. The privy buildings no longer exist, but there may be obscured and buried artifacts in the covered pits. Large boulders cover the pits as protection for visitors. The information obtained from the pits may include details on the diet of the school children and teachers and how their diets changed, if at all, throughout the 26 years the school was in use by students and teachers. After its use as a school, circa 1950s – 1960s, an area logging company utilized the building as a seasonal dormitory for its logging employees. While it is unknown whether the privy buildings existed during the loggers' tenure, if so, the pits may yield information relating to the diets and seasonal lifestyles of the loggers. Additionally, privy pits often contain trash indicative of a wider range of uses of a site than is apparent in historic records and can add unexpected detail to the historic narrative. This may include children's toys and games, school work, and special event programs.

A trash midden likely existed on the property; however, it is an obscured and a buried deposit. Although an archaeologist who recorded the site in 1996 did not find surface artifacts, the area was part of the State Park system for some time prior to the archaeological recording. Any surface artifacts may have been removed by the Park when it first acquired it or carried off by visitors as souvenirs. Such buried deposits may provide information as to the toys and games the children played with, lunches they ate, social events held at the school, diet of the teachers who lived at the school property, economic status and how it changed, if at all, and construction materials,

Additionally, another building existed next to the coal shed. Newspaper accounts and other sources indicated that the teachers lived on the school property. Archaeological investigations may provide information regarding the collapsed building and whether it served as a teacherage or other function. Such investigations may yield information regarding life ways of a rural school teacher including consumer behavior, hobbies and diet.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

Brush Creek Valley History

Prehistoric Hunters and Gathers

Long before miners and homesteaders arrived in the early 1880s, the Ute People lived, hunted, and trapped in the Brush Creek Valley: "Prehistoric occupation of the Central Rocky Mountains appears to have begun after 13,000 Before Present" (Metcalf et al,

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1994:6; Peterson and Mehls: 14). Archaeological evidence verifies the presence of prehistoric hunter-gatherers in the region more than 10,000 years ago. The nomadic earliest residents probably lived in the Eagle Valley seasonally, migrating with animal movement and change of seasons. Introduction of the horse in the mid-1500s allowed the people to greatly expand their territory. Surveys conducted by archaeologists on East and West Brush Creeks since the late 1970s yielded dozens of sites and artifacts indicating repeated prehistoric use of the East and West Brush Creek drainages. Artifacts noted included flakes from rocks that were chipped into tools, projectile points, pottery fragments, grinding slab (mano) fragments and other tools.

The Ute People

By 500 years ago, archaeological records (tools, food, dwellings, pottery, and campsites) reveal traits of the historical “hunting and gathering” living patterns of the Ute people. The Utes were the only Native Americans mentioned by the Escalante Expedition when it traveled through the Eagle Valley in 1776 (Peterson and Mehls: 12). Maps from the explorers of the Hayden Survey that passed through the Eagle Valley in the early 1870s show the “Ute Trail,” a vast network of prehistoric and historic trails used by the Ute people. Portions of the Ute Trail pass through the lower Brush Creek Valley. That portion of the trail, which runs across Bellyache Ridge to Squaw Creek, became the first wagon trail into the Brush Creek and Eagle area.

Analysis of the artifacts unearthed by archaeologists on Brush Creek from this time period suggests that depending on the climate of the time, hunters and gathers repeatedly established base camps in the Brush Creek Valley that were used in the summer and possibly through the fall. A number of these archaeological sites are the same location that the homesteaders who came in the 1880s through the early 1900s chose for their homes.

Homesteaders and Miners

With the gold rush in 1858 beginning in the foothills west of Denver, mining reached Eagle County in the late 1870s. The first gold rush at Fulford on East Brush Creek started in about 1887. The resulting influx of miners and homesteaders started a decades-long effort that resulted in the eventual “removal” of the Utes from the land that had long been theirs. An 1868 treaty limited Ute territory to western Colorado, but as more minerals were discovered, the Utes were pushed into continually shrinking territories.

Homesteaders and Utes

Local ranchers in the 1920s and 1930s reported finding primitive shelters and other signs of a Ute presence in the Brush Creek drainage. Archaeologists have recorded structural finds in the piñon and juniper covered hills in the region that include eagle

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traps, game fences (a line of tree branches and brush laid out in a manner that effectively funnels the game animals to the hunters) and rock art. At one time, many local residents had their own collections of arrowheads and primitive tools. Newspaper archives and other historic accounts dating to the early 1880s relate stories (not verifiable) of trappers and miners encountering bands of Utes camped on Brush Creek.

Tensions between the white men and the Utes peaked in 1879 with the Meeker Massacre. That incident triggered outrage from the white population and even stronger demands for removal of the Utes.

By the early 1880s various political policies and treaties removed the Native Americans out of their historic Colorado Territory and onto reservations. Those treaties specifically placed the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute on reservations in southwest Colorado and the Northern Ute bands were removed to Utah. Periodically, those Northern Utes left the reservation and returned to their traditional hunting grounds, but historical records are vague on these occurrences. While hunting rights were awarded through treaty, they were not always respected. However, it is clear that the forced removal of the Utes cleared the way for the homesteaders and miners to come into the valley.

Cattle Ranchers and Agriculture

Although the lure of gold and silver drew ambitious miners to Brush Creek at times, it was the high country meadows, rich soil and abundance of water that attracted the homesteaders. Many came west seeking an opportunity to own land of their own. While there were periods of excitement with the mines, it was the steady work of agriculture that drove the valley's economy from the late 1800s through the 1950s.

George Wilkinson, John W. Love, and Webb Frost are credited with being the first people to bring domestic cattle into the Brush Creek valley from South Park in November of 1880. The cattle arrived at the start of a harsh snowstorm. There are a couple of versions of history about what happened to that first herd of cattle.

The federal Homestead Act of 1862 made ownership of land possible. The law allowed any citizen (or person who intended to become a U.S. citizen) who was head of a family and over the age of 21 to acquire 160 acres of public domain. The law involved three steps to land ownership: file an application, make land improvements, and file for deed or title. The homesteaders could claim the land by remaining on the property for five continuous years and paying a modest registration fee (\$26 to \$34) to the federal government. In later years, recognizing the need for larger expanses of land for dry-land farmers, the Homestead Act was revised to increase the basic homestead unit to 320 acres. By 1916, homesteaders committed to stock raising could claim an entire section (640 acres) of land. "Cattle ranching has been a way of life since Brush Creek

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was settled,” wrote Brush Creek ranch wife Helen Dice in her memoir, *“A Cup of Clear Cold Water: Life on Brush Creek.”*

Many of the first small homesteads on Brush Creek were settled by prospectors who turned to ranching after failing to find their fortunes in the ore veins of the mountains of Brush Creek. The records can be sketchy. Property changed hands frequently. Some early settlers never followed through to formally file their claims.

Key crops grown on Brush Creek included Timothy hay, alfalfa, wheat, oats, potatoes and head lettuce. Typically, ranchers could raise two crops of hay in a season. Irrigation was the key to successful crop production, and the Brush Creek valley is laced with historic ditches.

Agricultural production on Brush Creek was impressive for many decades. A series of small ranches populated the valley from the mouth of main Brush Creek on up through the forks of East and West Brush Creeks. Ranching was hard, uncertain work and properties changed hands frequently. During times of war (World Wars I and II), ranchers tended to be prosperous as demand for their products rose. The more successful ranchers would acquire adjacent holdings, transforming a series of smaller ranches into larger commercial operations. Advances in farming techniques and machinery made ranches more efficient.

Mining

Gold ore was first discovered in the mountains of the Fulford mining district in about 1887. That prompted a gold rush to the camp located at the base of New York Mountain (about 22 miles southwest of the town of Eagle). The mining camp of Fulford was a factor in the development of East and West Brush Creek. By 1892, the district had become renowned as a producer of gold ore, and more than 500 mining claims were staked. The Fulford mining district encompassed a six-mile area beginning at Little Lime Creek Divide and including the Brush Creek, Nolan Creek, and West Lake Creek drainages.

The 59-acre Fulford town site was platted in the Eagle County courthouse in 1895. Records indicate that at the time, the camp had a population of 100 people, with 25 buildings including two hotels, two general stores and three saloons. Historic records indicate that during the boom times, the population of Fulford may have been as much as 600 people. The mining camp had its own newspaper and a ladies literary society.

Fulford experienced two distinct mining booms. The first started in about 1887, peaked in about 1900, and dwindled away to nothing by 1903. The second peak of activity in Fulford occurred in 1913, when a persistent prospector who had stayed in the camp made another strike. That boom lasted only for a period of weeks. The excitement at Fulford was soon eclipsed by the discovery of silver on Horse Mountain, several miles

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lower on Brush Creek. Some of the buildings in Fulford were dismantled and the logs were taken down valley to be used to frame the new mines. Today a few buildings remain in Fulford with a population less than ten.

Upper Brush Creek School

Once the community and school board decided to build a new school, the challenge was to raise enough money. Neighboring families held a fund-raising supper and dance at the Halfway House approximately one mile north of the school property. Tickets were \$2 each – a stiff price for the time. A crowd turned out to support the new school circa 1914 (Brown: 35).

Eagle County Historical Society (ECHS) archives included the names of several teachers who taught at the school. A series of teachers were employed between 1915 and 1923: (Luella Harris – 1915 and possibly longer), Florence Evans (exact years unknown); Mrs. Ralph Reynolds (exact years unknown), Mary Oberta – at least during 1919, Marie Schmidt – 1921, and Effie Gaut - 1922. In 1923, the school district hired Mary Bemis, a recent widow, who remained in that job until her retirement in 1941. Her husband Sam had been a rancher and miner who came west to explore Fulford. In 1932 local Democrats discussed promoting Mary Bemis as a candidate for the school board superintendent election. It is unknown whether she pursued the position as she continued to teach at the school although at a lower pay. The school district reduced the pay of all of the teachers of the county in 1932 due to the Great Depression.

Bemis and her young daughter, Sophia Jane (Jane), lived at the school property. After continuing her education at Eagle High School, Jane received a two-year teaching certificate from Colorado's State Teacher's School (now known as University of Northern Colorado) in Greeley. By 1935 Jane Bemis began teaching at the Lower Brush Creek School and then became the home economics teacher at Joes, Colorado High School.

In 1935 School District No. 17 members met to discuss the possibility of the Gypsum School and the Upper Brush Creek School merging to result in Upper Brush Creek School families having to move to the Gypsum valley for the school year. However, the members believed it would be too much of a hardship for the Upper Brush Creek families and discarded the idea at the meeting (*Eagle Valley Enterprise*, June 21, 1935). The Upper Brush Creek School building was also used as a community-gathering place during its time as a school. Community members hosted many potluck dinners and dances at the school building during the 1920s and 1930s. One of the dances was reported with attendees traveling from Gypsum canyon and upper Gypsum, approximately 10 miles west, to the school for a Saturday evening dance. Another was advertised as "Big Dance at Brush Creek School House, Saturday, April 30. Ladies Bring Sandwiches and Cake – Everyone Come (*Eagle Valley Enterprise*, March 7, 1930 and April 29, 1932). In 1935 the Assembly of God Church held church services at the

Upper Brush Creek School
Name of Property

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school on Friday evenings for at least two months. The newspaper did not report the reasons for having the services at the school or for having them on Friday evenings rather than Sundays (*Eagle Valley Enterprise*, September 27, 1935 and October 25, 1935).

In 1941 the building was closed when Mary Bemis retired, and was not used as a school again. When the numerous little schools scattered around the valley started consolidating in the 1940s, the Upper Brush Creek School students transferred to other nearby schools. An influence in the decline of the Upper Brush Creek Valley population was World War II. By the mid-1940s the importance of agriculture as an economic force in the valley began to dwindle. Many of the young men who would have worked on ranches and farms left to fight the war. Not all were eager to go back to ranch work when the war ended. The December 31, 1948 issue of the *Eagle Valley Enterprise* noted that the local agricultural community was now sharing its "top industry" status with other businesses, including lumber production and mining.

Lumber was a critical need of the establishment and growth of the communities in the valley. Substantial quantities of timber were needed in the underground mines, in housing, and for railroad construction in the Brush Creek area's early settlement. A number of small sawmills sprang up on Brush Creek. Gideon Lumley established a sawmill at the mouth of Beecher Gulch on lower Brush Creek (below the forks) in the 1890s. The Hadley brothers, who also operated a stage line, operated a sawmill on Hat Creek. Some sources suggest that timbers were floated down from Hat Creek to Yeoman Park in a flume.

A renewed interest in large-scale logging began on Hat Creek in 1946. Eventually, the Western Slope Lumber Company became the primary timbering operator (Brown: 47). The Forest Service built the road from Yeoman Park, south of the school property, to Fulford in 1959 to accommodate logging trucks operations. Prior to that time, loggers had to use the challenging "Old Fulford" stagecoach road. During the height of the logging industry on Brush Creek in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the schoolhouse, no longer needed for classes, was converted to a dormitory of sorts for loggers (Brown: 48). The school has been abandoned since its dormitory years, circa 1962.

After WWII, the economic trends changed. New transportation, shipping and production methods made it hard for small-scale Upper Brush Creek ranchers to compete with large corporate operations. The returning soldiers had new interests other than ranching, and the labor pool became depleted. By the 1960s, recreation began to replace ranching as the driving economic force in the valley.

The State of Colorado started acquiring land around Sylvan Lake beginning in the early 1960s. The State named it Sylvan Lake State Recreation Area, developed and managed by the Parks division of Colorado Game, Fish and Parks. Eventually the state legislature created two agencies: the Division of Wildlife and the Division of Parks and

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Outdoor Recreation. Sylvan Lake became part of the Division of Wildlife, which it named Sylvan Lake State Fishing Area. On July 1, 1987 the Division of Wildlife and the Division of Parks, now known as Colorado State Parks, agreed that the Colorado State Parks would assume the responsibility for the Sylvan Lake State Park as it became known under Parks' management. It has continued as a state park since. In 2010 the Upper Brush Creek School was nominated for the Most Endangered Places by Colorado Preservation, Inc. It was not added to the list, but since the nomination there has been local interest in preserving the school property.

Upper Brush Creek School
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bedell, Elizabeth. *Early History (of Eagle County)*. Unpublished manuscript, 1970. Eagle Public Library, Eagle, Colorado.

Brown, Sharon and Dana Dunbar Kamphausen. *Brush Creek Memories*. Unpublished manuscript, 1980. Eagle County Historical Society. Eagle Public Library, Eagle, Colorado.

Colorado Department of Parks and Recreation. *Sylvan Lake Statement of Management, 1991*. On file with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, CO.

Dice, Helen. *A Cup of Clear Cold Water Life on Brush Creek*. Lifetime Chronicle Press, Montrose, CO, 2008 (second printing).

Eagle School Children. 1940s Eagle County History (manuscript). Eagle Public Library in Eagle, Colorado

Eagle County Historical Archives, various. Eagle, Colorado.

Eagle Valley Enterprise:

June 18, 1915

June 6, 1919

May 13, 1921

March 7, 1930

March 20, 1931

January 1, 1932

April 29, 1932

May 20, 1932

November 30, 1934

April 5, 1935

July 26, 1935

August 16, 1935

September 27, 1935

October 25, 1935

December 31, 1948

Gustafson, Alice. *The Cultural Resource Inventory of the East Brush Creek Road (FSR 415) Switch Back Improvement, Eagle County*. White River National Forest, 2004.

Upper Brush Creek School Rural School Buildings in Colorado
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Heicher, Kathy. *Early Eagle*. Charleston, S.C: Arcadia Publishing, 2010.

Knight, MacDonald and L. A. Hammock. *Early Days on the Eagle*. Published by the authors, Eagle, CO, 1965.

McCabe, William. *The Empire of Eagle, A Descriptive History of a Great County.* Red Cliff, CO. (Publisher unknown), 1899.

McDonald, Kae. *Cultural Resource Inventory Along East Brush Creek for Adam's Rib Recreational Area*, Eagle County, CO. undated manuscript. On file at White River National Forest, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Palmer, Gail E. *Architectural Inventory Form for the Brush Creek School*, Site no. 5EA.1235, 2002. On file with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, CO.

Reiter, Tom, Brenda Randolph, Joshua Jones, and Leslie Rottach. *Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Forms for the Old Brush Creek Schoolhouse (5EA.1235)*, 1996. On file with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, CO.

Wolle, Muriel Sibell. *Stampede to Timberline: The Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of Colorado*. Published by the author, Boulder, CO., 1949.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: Colorado State Parks

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 5EA.1235

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

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

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Zone: 13 | Easting: 349 299 | Northing: 437 8068 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Upper Brush Creek School property is located within the Sylvan Lake State Park, which is further described as the northwest 1/4 of the northeast 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of section 18, township 6 south, range 83 west, in the 6th Principal Meridian, near the town of Eagle, County of Eagle, State of Colorado.

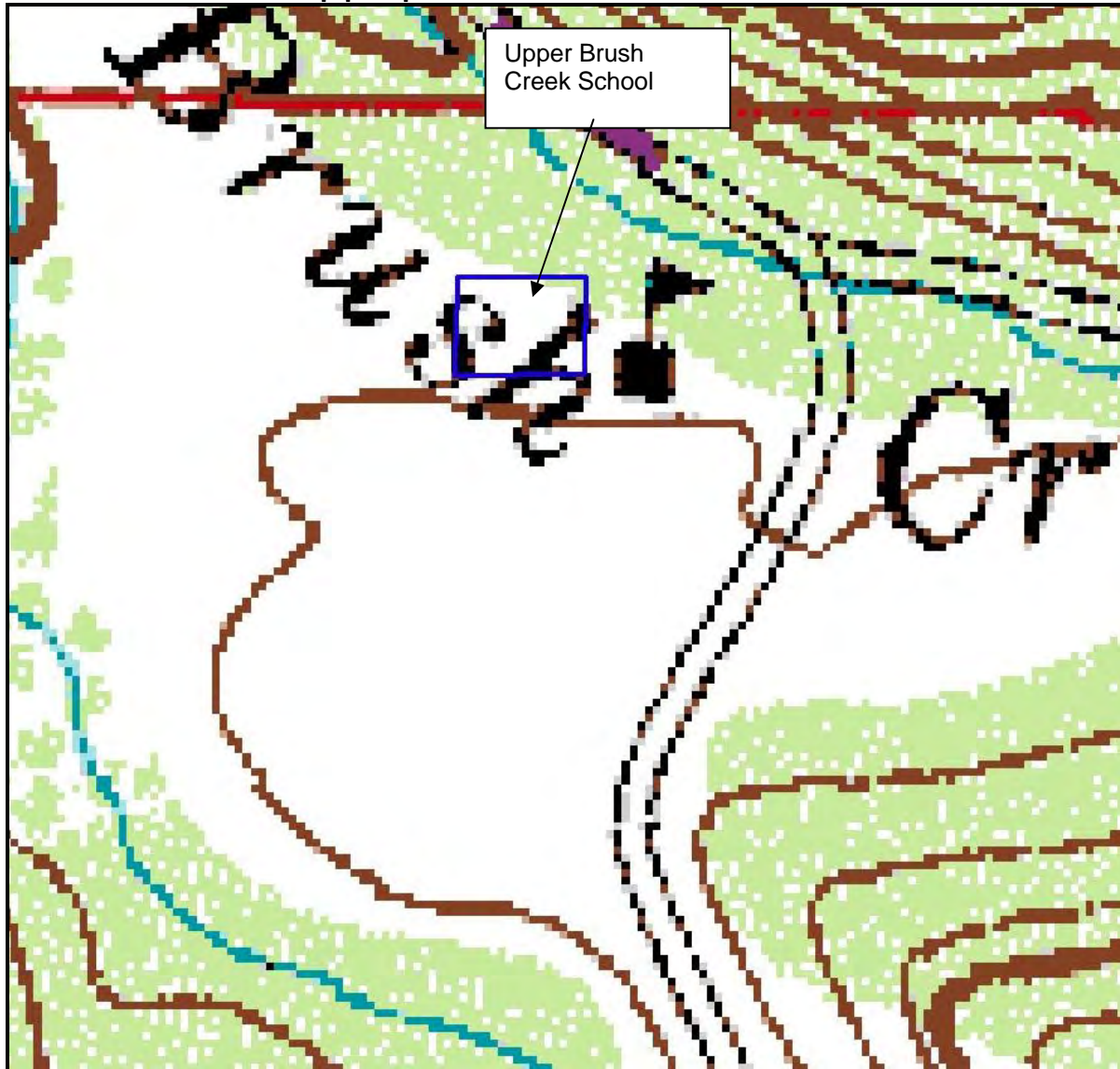
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary was drawn to encompass the school, coal shed, collapsed building depression and privy sites all historically associated with the school property as the extant of historic resources associated with the school property.

Upper Brush Creek School Rural School Buildings in Colorado
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USGS Section – Close-up perspective



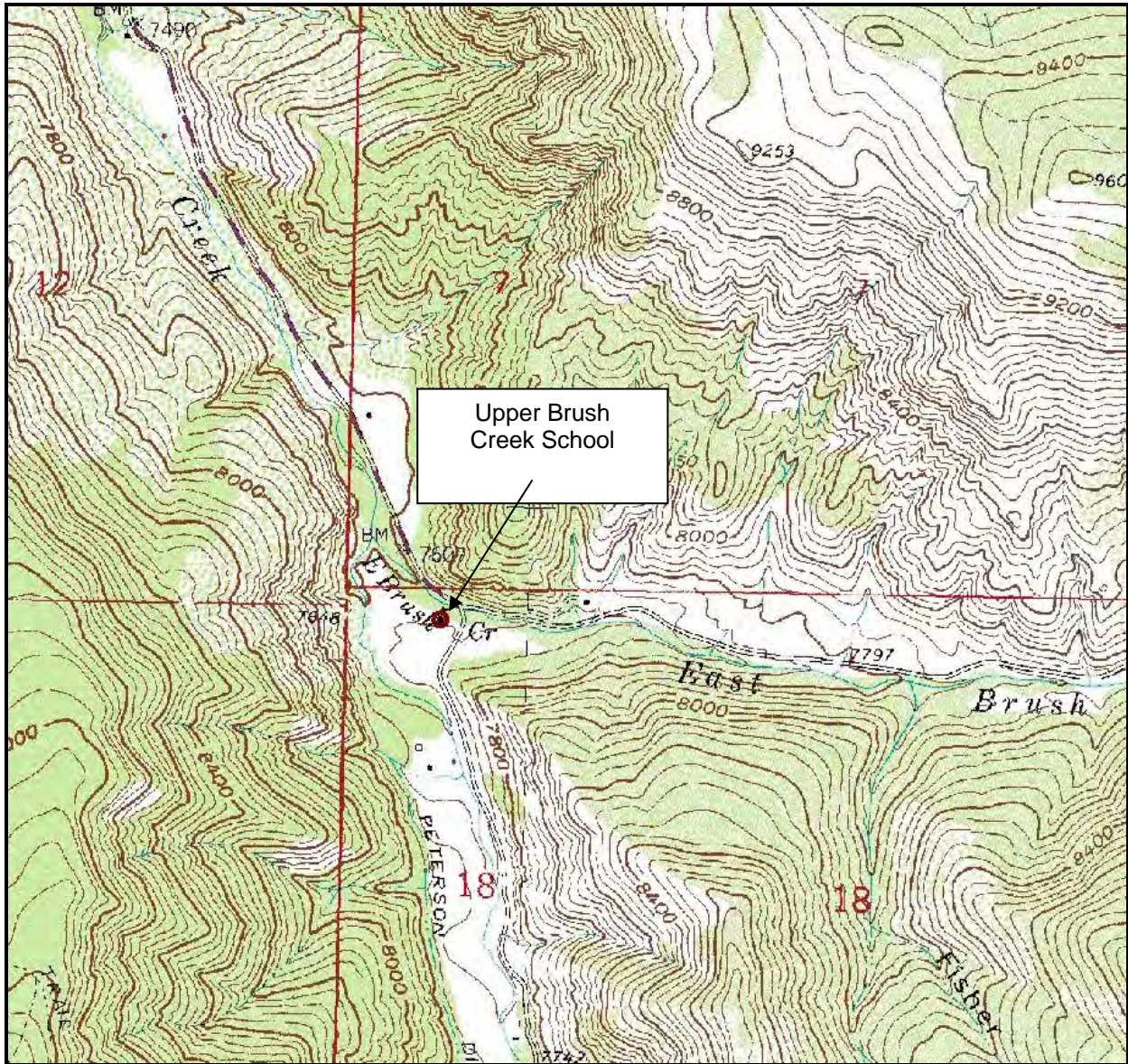
Upper Brush Creek School
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USGS Section – regional perspective
Seven Hermits Quadrangle
7.5 minute series

PLSS 6th PM, T6S, R83W
Section 18, NW NE NW NW
Elevation: 7630'

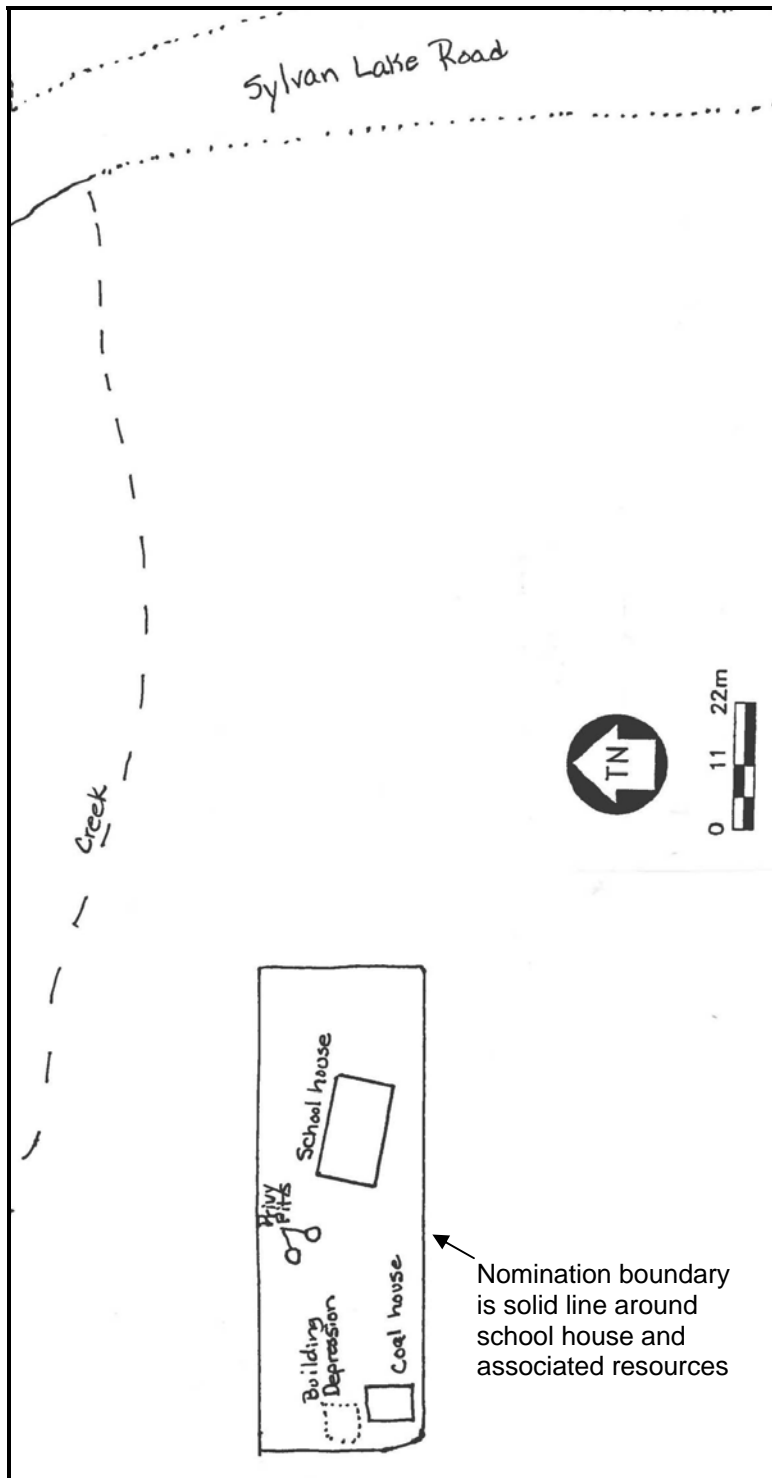


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Site Plan



Site Plan based on plan drawn by L. Rottach 7/23/1996 for the Management Data Form for the Old Brush Creek Schoolhouse on file with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, CO

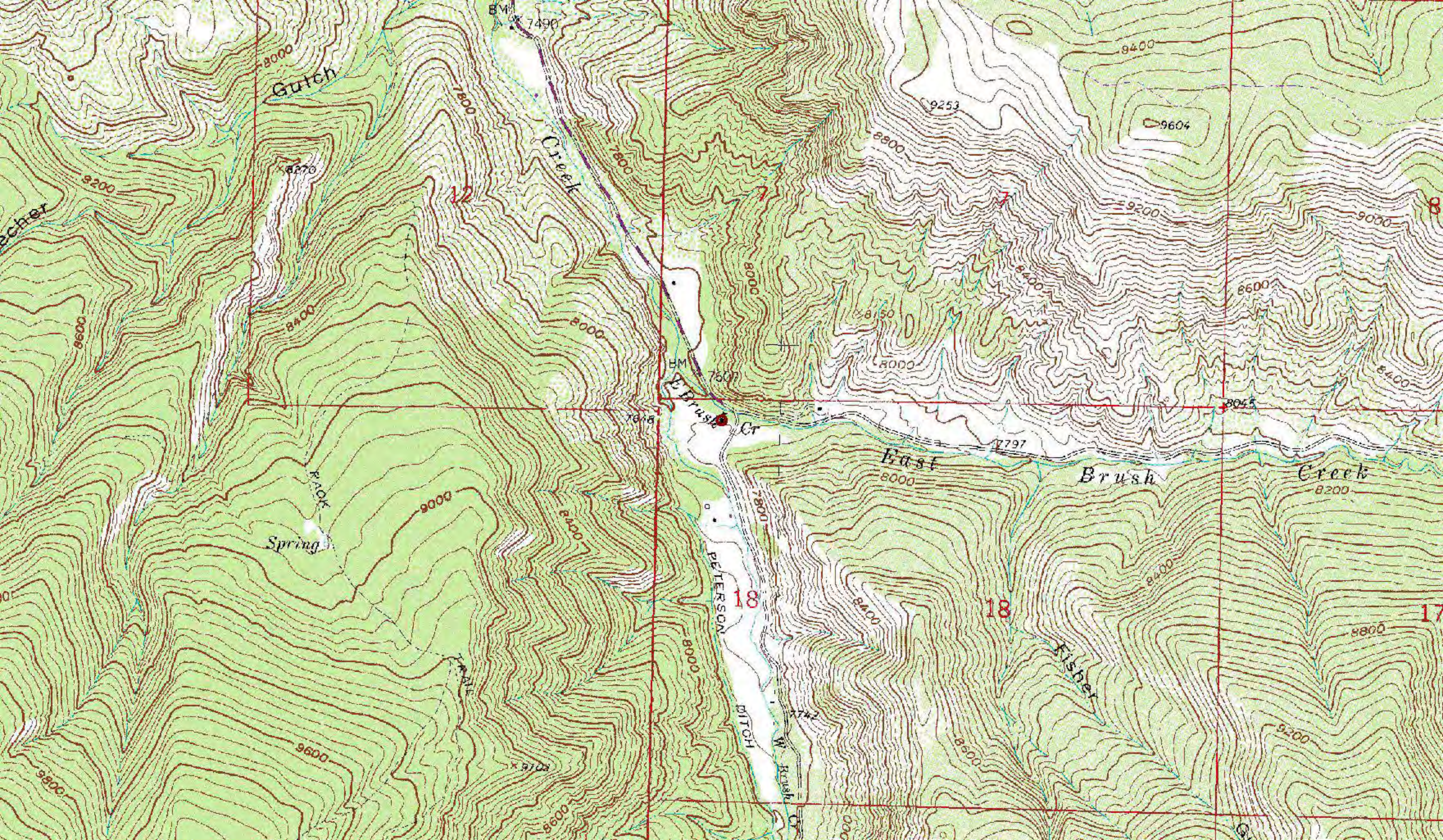
Upper Brush Creek School _____ Rural School Buildings in Colorado
Name of Property _____

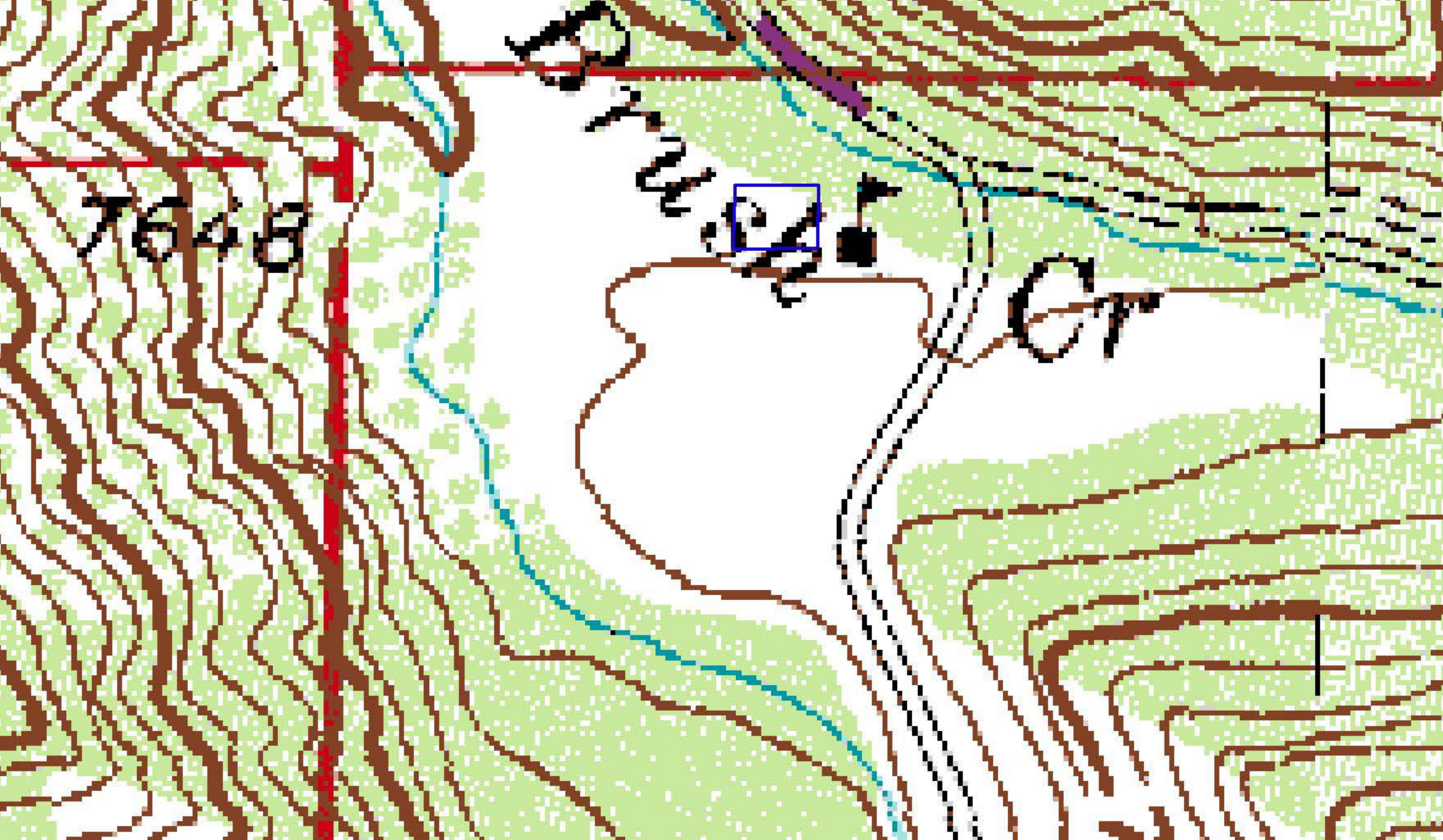
Eagle, CO
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Color Aerial Imagery Site Plan



Prepared by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, May 30, 2014





Upper Brush Creek School Rural School Buildings in Colorado
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Matt Schulz, Forest Management Coordinator, and Amy Glasgow
organization: Colorado Parks and Wildlife
street & number: 1313 Sherman St. #618
city or town: Denver state: CO zip code: 80203
e-mail matt.schulz@state.co.us
telephone: 303-866-3203 ext: 4345
date: 5/30/2014

Current Photo Log

The following information pertains to photographs 1-12 except as noted:

Name of Property: Upper Brush Creek School
City or Vicinity: Eagle
County: Eagle State: CO
Photographer: Curt Harvey
Date Photographed: 5/26/2014

Photo # 2 – taken by Kathy Heicher, 11/14/2011

Photo #5 – taken by Gail Palmer, 8/26/2002

Photos #11 and #12 – taken by Heather Peterson, 8/26/2014

Photo No.	Photograph description
1	Upper Brush Creek School, east (main) façade – building entrance, camera facing west
2	Upper Brush Creek School, east (main) façade and south facing side, camera facing west
3	Upper Brush Creek School, south-facing side, camera facing north
4	Upper Brush Creek School, north-facing side, camera facing south
5	Upper Brush Creek School, north-facing side, camera facing southwest
6	Upper Brush Creek School, west-facing side, camera facing east
7	Upper Brush Creek School coal shed, east-facing side, camera facing west
8	Upper Brush Creek School coal shed, south-facing side, camera facing north
9	Upper Brush Creek School coal shed, north-facing side, camera facing south
10	Upper Brush Creek School coal shed, west-facing side, camera facing east
11	Upper Brush Creek School privy sites, camera facing northeast
12	Upper Brush Creek School fence post with barbed wire remnants, camera facing northwest

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Historic Image Log

Image No. Image Information

Figure 1: The Upper Brush Creek School during the 1930s. Photo courtesy of Eagle County Historical Society and Eagle Valley Library District., Eagle, CO

Figure 2: Teacher Mary Bemis poses with a student. Photo courtesy of Eagle County Historical Society and Eagle Valley Library District, Eagle, CO.

Historic Images



Figure 1: The Upper Brush Creek School during the 1930s.

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Figure 2: Teacher Mary Bemis poses with a student, circa 1930s.



NO
SMOKING
FIREARMS
OR
HUNTING











NO
PASSING

NO
PASSING













UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Upper Brush Creek School
NAME:

MULTIPLE Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: COLORADO, Eagle

DATE RECEIVED: 2/20/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/17/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/01/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/07/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000126

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 4-6-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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.



OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORIC PRESERVATION



February 17, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Register and NHL Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination for the Upper Brush Creek School, Eagle vicinity, Eagle County,
Colorado (5EA.1235)

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are pleased to submit for your review the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Upper Brush Creek School, Eagle County, Colorado. In accordance with the new submission policy, enclosed please find:

- CD with nomination for the Upper Brush Creek School
Note: **The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Upper Brush Creek School to the National Register of Historic Places.**
- CD with TIF images
- CD with USGS Topo maps from ArcView GIS
- Physical signature page to the nomination

The State Review Board reviewed the nomination at its meeting on September 19, 2014. The board voted unanimously to recommend to the State Historic Preservation Officer that the nomination met the criteria for listing in the National Register.

We look forward to the listing of this nomination. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (303) 866-4684 or at heather.peterson@state.co.us.

Best regards,

Heather Peterson
National & State Register Historian

Enclosures as above noted