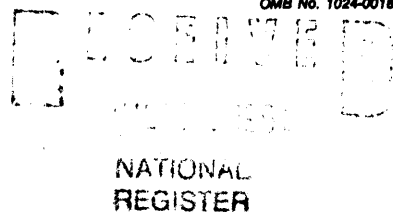


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations 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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Canelo School

other names/site number Canille School

2. Location

street & number 18 miles southeast of Sonoita on Arizona Highway 93  N/A not for publication

city, town Canelo  vicinity

state Arizona code AZ county Santa Cruz code 023 zip code 85611

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

Number 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  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.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Shereen Berner

Date 6/25/91

State or Federal agency and bureau State Historic Preservation Office

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 of the Keeper Melanie Byers

Date of Action 7/31/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School  
SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

Not in use

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular: National Folk

foundation Stone and Concrete  
walls Adobe  
roof Tin  
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY

The Canelo School is the last known one-room adobe schoolhouse in the state of Arizona. It was originally constructed with adobe walls, a cedar roof, and oak and pine floors. A bell tower with bell was on the roof at the front of the structure. Heat was supplied with a wood burning stove. In the 1930s the adobe walls were covered with plaster and a tin roof was installed over the cedar shingles. It remains virtually the same as it was when built in 1912. There has been some loss of historic fabric due to neglect and vandalism, and all furnishings have been removed. On the whole, however, it retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

DESCRIPTION

Original Framing and Construction: The Canelo School is a one-story structure, rectangular in plan, 42 feet by 22 feet wide, with a low-pitched, front-gabled roof. When built in 1912, the roof was covered with cedar shingles, but in 1934 it was recovered with tin. The ceiling is of old-style beaver board, 3 by 2 feet hung on 2 by 4 inch ceiling joists.

Walls and Foundation: The foundation is made of large stones randomly set in a concrete matrix. The exterior walls are made of adobe covered in plaster. The interior walls are also plastered. There are three slate painted or plastered blackboards on the east and west interior walls.

Windows and Doors: There are four windows (originally double-hung) and one door on the east wall, five windows on the west side, and one door on the north (front) wall. There are neither doors or windows in the south wall. Originally there was only the door on the north end and five windows on the east wall.

Floor: The floor joists are 2 by 4 inch boards set on three 4 by 4 inch beams which run north and south. These three beams provide support for the joists at mid points. The beams are carried to the ground by 4 by 4 inch boards located approximately 8 feet apart. The flooring itself is two ply: the first layer is of tongue-and-groove pine laid at

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION  
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1912-1941

Significant Dates

1912

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Bob McGregor - builder

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

SUMMARY

The Canelo School is eligible under Criterion "A" because it represents the earliest forms of education in the state of Arizona. In 1913 the school opened with twenty students and it closed its doors in 1948 when only one student attended classes there. In the interim, Canelo school served as a center for education and social meetings for the people of Santa Cruz County. Although Canelo is the name used today, the original name of the district and the school was Canille. Reportedly, the present spelling of "Canelo" began when the first local United States Forest Ranger, R. A. Rogers, misspelled "Canille" and started writing "Canelo" by mistake. According to Paul L. Allen of the Tucson Citizen, the spelling "Canille" was in use when the post office was established in the area just after the turn of the century. He also suggests that the name "Canelo" was derived from the Spanish word for cinnamon, "canela," and so the school district, town, and school were named after the cinnamon-colored hills in the area.

HISTORIC CONTEXT-EDUCATION

The Canille or Canelo schoolhouse, built in 1912, is one of the best preserved adobe, one-room schoolhouses presently existing within the state of Arizona. It typifies the educational process that existed during the early days of Arizona statehood. During this era, Santa Cruz County was a part of Pima county, but later to become a county of its own. Through the years, the one-room adobe schoolhouses in Arizona, like the Evans Camp School, have been lost. The Canelo School is the last known remaining example of this once common type.

The Eleventh Territorial Assembly (1871), under Governor Safford, decided upon a tax to support schools. One such school that was established to satisfy the territorial needs for schooling was the Evans Camp School which was opened in the early 1880s at Evans Camp, a small silver mining community 8 miles west of Historic Fort Huachuca, in Lyle

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Norman G. Wallace. "Learning in One Room." Arizona Highways, December 1935.
- Paul L. Allen and Warren Faidley. "'N' for Nostalgia." Tucson Citizen, September 14, 1987.
- Posy Piper. "1st Reunion." Nogales International, October 28, 1987.
- Janet Lemon. "The Canelo School." Unpublished essay, Northern Arizona University, December 1986.
- Alleen Pace Nilsen, et. al., eds. Dust in Our Desks. Tempe, Arizona: Arizona Board of Regents, Arizona State University, 1985.

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**

Acreage of property 2.025 acres

**UTM References**

A 1 2 5 4 6 5 1 0 3 4 8 9 6 0 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is situated in Santa Cruz county, beginning at a point whence the corner common to Sections 3, 4, 9 and 10, Township 22 South, Range 18 East, Gila Salt River Basin. Bears west 2.5 chains, thence south 4.5 chains, thence east 4.5 chains, thence north 4.5 chains, thence west 4.5 chains to place of beginning comprising an area of 2.025 acres.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries coincide with the original 1912 deed.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title James Pyeatt and Rebecca Rich

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date April 18, 1991

street & number HCR Box 427 telephone (602) 455-5352

city or town Elgin state Arizona zip code 85611

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a 45 degree angle, which is then covered with oak flooring laid at a 45 degree angle opposite the sub-floor.

Special Features: Although the building was simply designed and constructed, the Canelo schoolhouse did have some special features. For instance, there were two small rooms inside the schoolhouse at the front of the structure on both sides of the door which were used for books and clothing. Although these are gone their location is visible on the floor. Attached to the south, exterior end of the building was a woodshed made of tin. The shed is gone, but the wood board to which it was attached still remains. On the roof front is a wood bell tower measuring 4 by 4 feet. It has a symmetrical pyramidal roof which still retains some of its wood shingles. The bell has been removed for safe keeping. Two outhouses were located on the grounds southeast of the school building. These are no longer present. There were two water wells on the grounds. A dug well was located west of the building but this caved in in 1939. In 1940, community members (who were also alumni) drilled a new well next to the old one.

Site: Canelo School, a one-room adobe schoolhouse facing north, is located in southern Arizona, approximately 20 miles north of the United States-Mexico border. The town of Canelo is a small rural ranching community located in Santa Cruz county, 18 miles southeast of Sonoita on state route 83 in a valley that is nestled between the Huachuca Mountains and the Canelo Hills. The school was built in 1912 on land deeded to the county by a school teacher who had taught at the Evans Camp School (the local area one-room school which opened in about 1894 and closed in 1912 when the Canille School opened).

The building site is 2.025 acres located on the B. K. Wilson homestead in Santa Cruz County, in the extreme northeast corner of Section 10, Township 22S, Range 18E, Gila, Salt River Base Meridian. These 2.025 acres were deeded by B. K. and H. O. Wilson to the Canille/Canelo School District in about 1914 with a caveat on the deed stating that the land will be forfeited if it is used for commercial or industrial purposes. The deed was recorded in 1942 at the request of Cora Everhart, the Santa Cruz county superintendent who taught at numerous one room schools in southern Arizona.

Integrity: The school has suffered few alterations; most changes to the building are the results of vandalism and neglect. The most notable change to the exterior is the metal roof which was added during the historic period and replaced the original wood shingle roof. Outhouses no longer exist, and the wells are not in use. The walls remained as raw adobe until 1934 when they were plastered. The adobe was covered with chicken wire,

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then the lime-cement stucco was applied. The adobe is still intact underneath. The walls have suffered some damage. The exterior plaster on the east and west sides are missing which exposes the adobe walls. The west wall appears to be pulling away from the rest of the building. Also, a hole has been dug through the exterior wall, under the floor in the rear (south).

Inside there has been some loss of historic fabric. Wall plaster and black boards are in need of repair. Approximately one-quarter of the oak flooring has been removed and there is a hole in the floor where both the pine and oak flooring have been removed. The cloak rooms no longer exist and the ceiling has been heavily damaged. While the windows suffer varying degrees of damage, including the loss of all panes of glass, their frames, pulleys, and hinges remain intact.

Although the building does suffer from damage and neglect, on the whole the building is sound and has integrity of design, setting, and workmanship. Most of the original materials are present, and structurally the building seems to be quite sound. The school building is still currently the only structure on the original 2.025 acres. It continues to convey a strong sense of time and place, and due to the rarity of this resource is worthy of recognition and protection.

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Canyon. Most of the schools that were born of this educational movement were one-room because the number of students could not justify a separate grading system. Schools of this type were constructed of fired adobe bricks. As the silver mining in Tombstone, Arizona died away, so did the outlet for silver from the small mines such as Evans Camp. In 1899, Santa Cruz County was established from a southern section of Pima County. The county was divided into 12 school districts; Canelo was School District No. 10.

During this era, Santa Cruz County had about 12 one-room adobe schoolhouses. None of these are still in use, and only the Canelo building still exists in its original configuration, and in restorable condition. Due to the often perishable nature of the construction materials, inherent use limitations of these buildings, and the frequent discontinuity of settlement growth, few of these one-room schools have survived into the last quarter of the 20th Century.

In 1912 the local farmers and ranchers saw the need for a larger, more centrally located school. B. K. Wilson, a teacher at Evans Camp School, had a homestead at the location of the Canelo School. In 1912 he allowed the new Canelo School to be built on his property approximately two miles west of the Evans Camp. That same year Bob McGregor built the Canelo School out of locally manufactured adobe bricks.

The Canelo School opened in 1913 with approximately twenty students. In the early 1920s and 1930s, the Canelo School flourished. The homesteaders were thick in the area, ranchers and farmers did reasonably well, and their children needed schooling. In response, the Canelo School Board modernized the old schoolhouse by plastering the outside and adding a larger woodshed, replacing the organ with a modern player piano, fencing the 2.025 acres so the teachers and students could keep their horses inside the area without having to tether them each day. As the larger ranches bought up the smaller homesteads and dry farms, the number of students dwindled. With only one student in 1948, the school closed its doors.

#### HISTORIC CONTEXT-SOCIAL HISTORY

Although the primary purpose of the building was for use as a schoolhouse, it also served other functions. It was the site for political meetings, dances, plays, and picnics. In the early years it housed an organ which, along with a fiddle, formed an "orchestra." In the 1930s, the organ was traded for a player piano.

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The school building was also the site of local funeral services. In 1917 the Trustees of the School District became the legal agents responsible for the Black Oak Cemetery. A Special Use Permit was granted for ten acres of land near the Canelo School to be used as a free cemetery. When the one-teacher school districts of Canelo #10, Elgin #20, Rain Valley #26, Sonoita #25, and Vaughn #27 were consolidated into one district (Sonoita #25) during the 1950s, the custodianship of the cemetery was also transferred to the Trustees of District #25.

### INTEGRITY

Unlike most school districts in Arizona, the Canelo district has not changed a great deal. Although there is no longer a store or post office as there was in 1913, many of the students who attended the first year still reside in the area. The school continues to generate much interest from the community members and alumni. They are enthusiastic about preserving the building and its heritage. It is a community center and serves as the site for annual alumni reunions.

The Canelo School continues to convey a strong sense of time and place. This rare resource is one of the best preserved one-room adobe schoolhouses extant within the state of Arizona. Very few adobe schools of this time period remain standing today. The Canelo School typifies the educational processes that existed during the early days of Arizona statehood.