

PH 0661791

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 21 1978
DATE ENTERED SEP 13 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Lincoln School

AND/OR COMMON

Lincoln School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

300 Block West Third Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

La Junta

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Otero

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

__OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__ YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Lincoln Square Company

STREET & NUMBER

12 Town Square Mall, 208 Santa Fe Avenue

CITY, TOWN

La Junta

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Otero County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

200 Block Colorado Avenue

CITY, TOWN

La Junta,

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Buildings

DATE

1977

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Files of La Junta Heritage Foundation, Inc.

CITY, TOWN

La Junta

STATE

Colorado

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior: Lincoln School fronts about 120 feet on Third Street. The architectural style is Spanish Colonial with a red Spanish-tile roof. The plan is irregular. A flat-roofed, one-story section juts out to the front on the west. The main area is two stories with a gable roof. To the east is a one-story section with gable roof.

In front of the main section is a low walled balcony onto which opens five double, wooden-shuttered windows. Below the balcony three arches form an arcade entry to a verandah that is off the auditorium-gymnasium area.

Eight rectangular windows march across the west facade. A single flush brick grill decorates the projecting west section. The main entrance to the west in the main section is a recessed double wooden door with a flat arch over it. Between door and arch is an oil painting in bright blue with the words "Lincoln School" in gilt script.

The captivating surprises that everywhere greet the eye are augmented by the irregular pattern created by the brick walls. The brick is laid in common bond with every third brick cocked. The resulting shadows in certain lights are fascinating. Also the brick is laid in various patterns around doors and windows.

The red brick was given a thin coat of soft white paint that has weathered so that the walls have a variegated rosy color, adding to the variety, and further enlivening the effect of the structure.

The building was soundly constructed, and shows no construction problems. Special care was taken to support the auditorium-gymnasium section. It has been changed very little on the outside. Wrought iron grills have been removed from three windows. The projecting cement drains for the balcony have broken off. The brick grill window in the west section needs repair. The doors and shutters are in bad condition. They are beautiful, and it is hoped they will be repaired, not replaced.

The windows are broken and boarded up. The trees are scraggly and overgrown so as to almost hide the building. Renovation and landscaping of Lincoln School would make it possible to see the charming asymmetry of the structure. Once again it would be a landmark in the town's streetscape.

Interior: The interior is full of rubble and signs of vandalism, but most of the wealth of detail and beauty remain. All floors are in good condition, as are cement or oak stairways.

The gymnasium-auditorium has a balcony with fixed seats to the west. The stage on the east has an oak floor. Below stage and at each side are dressing rooms, showers, rest rooms and storage rooms.

The auditorium has a white maple floor. Overhead are exposed beams and purlins and turned queen trusses. The light fixtures on the walls are sheet metal reinforced with twisted iron fashioned to look like the work of Aztec Indians. The north wall is decorated with

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Ethnic
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1937

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Walter De Mordaunt and John Gray

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lincoln School complex was begun in 1883 with a native-stone structure, the first La Junta school beyond the log-cabin, adobe-building stage. The second building of red brick was added in 1903-04, and the third in 1936-37. The first two were demolished in 1975 after the block was sold to the Lincoln Square Company. Although the remaining structure is only forty years old, its significance is such that every effort should be made to prevent its demolition.

Architecturally it is a beautiful building, a work of art. The intriguing irregular plan and roof lines, the delightfully patterned brick work on the facade and in the interior, the warm colors in brick and tile are worked into the Spanish Colonial style so appropriate to La Junta's southwestern United States desert environment.

Lincoln School's situation on the street leading east into- and only two blocks from- La Junta's downtown business district provokes the interest of the passersby, and promises pleasant experiences to come. Its existence is a considerable factor in the town's plans for the creation of a historic district, Plaza de Tiempo La Junta, of its downtown area- an effort to try to keep the core of the city viable.

On the other hand Lincoln School is on the east edge of an area populated largely by Spanish-speaking people, and as a school it had importance to them as a cultural center.

By the time the last building was added to the complex in 1937, Lincoln School had become an elementary school largely attended by Spanish-speaking students. Historically Lincoln School has been of the greatest importance to many groups. Its first building was the continuation of the efforts of the first school board which in 1877 was composed entirely of women, Mrs. George Spane, Mrs. A.J. Anderson, and Mrs. Cooper. An editorial headed "These Are Ours", in the school newspaper The Tiger's Tale, published February 4, 1937, and reporting on the dedication of the new addition to Lincoln School says, "Side by side the native Americans and these newly-made Americans (Spanish-speaking) will work and strive to make this country, their home, a better, more prosperous nation."

Much effort was made to help the Spanish-speaking people feel that the 1937 annex was theirs, and that it was a community addition of which all could be proud. The architectural style of the building was Spanish Colonial. The light fixtures in the library and auditorium-

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Tiger's Tale Magazine, 5-15-1939 and The Tiger's Tale, 2-4-1937 - both on file at La Junta High School Library.
 Interview with Banderanda Palacio by Frances Keck, 2-15-1977.
 Interview with Lea Garlington, La Junta School Superintendent of Works in 1937, by Frances Keck, 3-15-1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 3	6, 2, 7, 5, 7, 0	4, 2, 0, 5, 0, 7, 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE E. Frances Keck, President of La Junta Heritage Foundation, Inc.
Langdon E. Morris, Jr. SPC (AIA)

ORGANIZATION La Junta Heritage Foundation, Inc.

DATE 3-19-1977

STREET & NUMBER 701 Grace Avenue
1869 S. Pearl Street

TELEPHONE 384-2702
861-0812

CITY OR TOWN La Junta, Colorado
Denver, Colorado

STATE Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *[Signature]*

TITLE Col. SAPO

DATE 1/14/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

R. B. Rettig

DATE 9/13/78

ATTEST: *William Leborich*

DATE 2/12/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Description continued-

six panels of header and stretcher brick and cement blocks set in an irregular pattern. There are brick dentils set around the walls at the ceiling. On the walls below each beam is a carved wooden block with supporting brick corbels.

The wide entrance hall has a red brick floor and brick walls with dentils at the ceiling. There is a decorated brick arch over the steps leading down to the auditorium level, and like arches over a drinking fountain on the east and the far north wall. An arched doorway leads to the library on the west. Over that door is an oil painting with "Library" in script.

The library has an oak floor, and like the auditorium, light fixtures, beams and purlins, and brick corbels. The eight west windows lighted this room. Between the beams and purlins the artist, Robert Wade, painted geometric Indian designs.

Covering about a third of the north wall was, and is, a signed mural in oil by Wade. The figures are a woman (a mother) and children. On the lower left are these words, "In memory of T.T. Woodruff a real friend to La Junta Public Schools".

The library has been divided into two rooms. The ceiling decorations have been covered with sheet rock. The mural is in good condition, one corner of the canvas loose from the wall, but essentially unharmed.

Even with the interior of Lincoln School in its present condition, one is conscious of the spacious atmosphere, a feeling like that in the wide, high-ceilinged halls in Mexico with their graceful arches and heavy beams. Here is a building with great possibilities.

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Statement of Significance Continued-

gymnasium had an Aztec flavor.

An outstanding artist, Robert Wade of Bedford, Massachusetts, listed in the 1935 issue of "Who's Who in Art", creator of a mural at Shrove Memorial Chapel at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, was chosen to paint a mural in oil on the north wall of the library. He also painted Indian-suggesting geometric designs on the library ceiling, a small mural over a door to the library and one over the main entrance. The artist used much bright blue in the paintings over the doors because he knew that to Spanish-speaking Catholics the color promised protection. In the Catholic Church Mary's robes were always blue.

At the School dedication the children sang Spanish songs. Lincoln School curriculum stressed art and music, visual education, field trips to explore the community, physical education- a curriculum to interest and aid children between two cultures. Teachers especially sympathetic to the strengths and the problems of bi-cultural people were chosen.

According to Banderanda Palacio, whose ten children attended Lincoln School, the meaning and the program did reach the Spanish-speaking people. However, as time went on, growing school enrollment forced the school board to convert the gracious library into two classrooms. There was not enough money or awareness to allow those in charge to preserve or augment the captivating details of the interior or the landscaping around the building.

Then came the movement to break up neighborhoods, desegregate schools and Lincoln School was abandoned and sold to a corporation. The two older sections were demolished, and the 1937 annex and the whole block awaits a buyer. It is hoped that if the building is on the National Register of Historic Places, that buyer will take advantage of the tax laws passed by the United States Congress in 1976, preserve and renovate the building to the advantage of the nearby Spanish-speaking neighborhood on one side and the downtown commercial district on the other.

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Lincoln School,
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The Lincoln School is significant for its architectural features and for its association with the heritage of the Spanish-speaking community in La Junta.

When the building opened for classes in 1883, it was the only schoolhouse in town and served a community that was primarily English-speaking. As the population grew, the town added an addition in 1903-4 and another (the nominated structure) in 1937. During these years, however, Spanish-speaking people moved into La Junta, and by the time the third addition was completed, the children in the school were overwhelmingly Spanish-speaking. Thus, the third addition has come to play an important role in the heritage of the local Hispano community.

From an architectural perspective the Lincoln School enjoys a position of prominence in La Junta. As a local landmark it provides a refreshing view as one drives along West Third Street, but more importantly, it is the finest example of institutional architecture in La Junta; there is nothing else of this quality in town.

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Lincoln School

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Verbal Boundary Description:

South 134' of block 28, Original Town of La Junta. 134' on Carson Avenue, 300' on Third Street, 134' on Belleview Avenue.