

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018  
**RECEIVED**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**AUG 31 1993**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**NATIONAL  
REGISTER**

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.

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Pioneer School

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Location

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street & number County Road 1-AG  
city or town Near Clark vicinity X  
state Wyoming code WY county Park code \_\_\_\_\_  
zipcode 82435

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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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.)

John J. Teck \_\_\_\_\_ 8/25/93  
Signature of certifying official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Autawicott & Bees 10/5/93  
    \_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ for Signature of Keeper      \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- \_\_\_ private  
\_X\_ public-local  
\_\_\_ public-State  
\_\_\_ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- \_X\_ building(s)  
\_\_\_ district  
\_\_\_ site  
\_\_\_ structure  
\_\_\_ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	___ buildings
___	___ sites
___	___ structures
___	___ objects (playground equipment)
<u>  1  </u>	___ Total

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

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

PIONEER SCHOOL/ PARK CNTY WY

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6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: School

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: Civic (Community Center)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Frame structure with two additions

(other)

Mass vernacular or architect designed

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

roof wooden shingles

walls wood lap siding

other asphalt shingles on rear addition

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

PIONEER SCHOOL/ PARK CNTY WY

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8. Statement of Significance

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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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Entertainment/recreation

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1914-1942

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1914

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

PIONEER SCHOOL/ PARK CNTY WY

Architect/Builder Oehme, Curtis C.  
Anderson, H.P.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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 # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

- Primary Location of Additional Data
- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other

Name of repository: Park County Historical Society Archives

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 2

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	12	651140	4981540	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	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.)

PIONEER SCHOOL/ PARK CNTY WY

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Jeannie Cook, Curator

organization Park County Historical Society Archives date July 22, 1992

street & number 1002 Sheridan Ave. telephone (307) 587-2204, ext. 246

city or town Cody state WY zip code 82414

PIONEER SCHOOL / PARK CNTY WY

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

<u>Pioneer School</u>
Name of property
<u>Park Wyoming</u>
County and State

Pioneer School is located in Park County, Wyoming, approximately 8 miles North of the town of Clark. The school building faces South and is situated on a 2 acre parcel of land lying in a square. The acreage is enclosed by a wire fence except for the West side. County road 1-AG runs South of the school as well as the Clark ditch. The nearest building is more than one quarter of a mile distance, with a pasture and dairy to the West and hay field to the East. On the North the property borders unclaimed prairie. The school grounds are covered by crested wheat grass, sagebrush, and some cactus and Cottonwood trees. The area near the school building is sanded and gravelled with a baseball diamond Southwest of the building.

The Pioneer School is part of a rural agricultural setting and holds a commanding view of the Absaroka range to the West. The area surrounding the school is largely undeveloped with the exception of cultivated lands and appears much as it did earlier in this century.

Pioneer School is a large rectangular shaped one and one-half story, wood frame building with a concrete daylight basement. It has a medium hipped roof over the original one-room school building and the small music room addition on the North, with a gabled roof over the East end teacherage addition. The entrance and bell tower are located between the large school room and teacherage facing South. The building has in recent years been painted white with dark green trim. Originally it was painted brick red. The Pioneer School was designed by architect Curtis Oehme and constructed by H.P. Anderson in 1914. Dwight Wildman excavated the basement.

The original school consisted of one large classroom on the ground floor with double doors in the entry and a storage closet. A water cooler and wash basin were provided in the cloak room, North of the entry.

A coal furnace was placed in the center of the basement with a coal chute and bin on the West wall. In cold weather classes were held in the basement with students huddled around the furnace. In 1930 community dances were held to raise money for a new coal furnace. Students were allowed to work on special activities, hold story hour and have recess in the basement. Two outhouses were located on the Northwest side of the school but are no longer extant.

In 1953 Ray Daugherty completed work on a two-room teacherage addition to the East end of the Pioneer School. It still consists of a combination living room - kitchen and one bedroom. Two bathrooms were probably added at this time to replace the cloak room in an effort to modernize the building and provide a well and indoor plumbing.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

<u>Pioneer School</u>	
name of property	
<u>Park</u>	<u>Wyoming</u>
County	State

In 1956 architect Vernon Drake designed a music room addition which was constructed on the North side of the Pioneer School. It was fitted with counters, cupboards for storage, a sink, and water fountain. At this time the school room was upgraded including the addition of plywood paneling, acoustic tile on the ceiling, new chalkboards, storage space, and fluorescent lighting. A bank of three double windows was added to the South wall of the school room to replace the old windows and two windows on the West wall were covered over. New stairs to the basement were added. A fuel oil furnace was purchased and installed in the basement which was extended to the North to accomodate the furnace. A storage room and hot water heater were added to the East wall. For the first time playground equipment was installed and improvements were made to the grounds.

The overall site possesses a strong sense of association with early twentieth century rural education in this sparsely populated farming and ranching community. Neither the immediate site nor the surrounding community has changed significantly since the school was constructed, and there are no significant modern intrusions.



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Pioneer School  
name of property  
Park Wyoming  
county and State

The Pioneer School is an early twentieth century rural school in Northwestern Wyoming, lying in the Clark's Fork Valley near the Montana border. It is a significant property under National Register Criterion A, because it represents the theme of early twentieth century education in an isolated, sparsely-populated farming and ranching community. Providing the children of Park County with an education presented unique problems. In a vast region with poor transportation and severe winters a number of one-room schools were built to serve the farming community including: Pioneer, Clark, Line Creek, and Paint Creek. As the region became settled and the towns began to grow in population early in the twentieth century, more substantial and permanent buildings were built to replace the earlier one-room log buildings. The larger schools of Pioneer, Clark, and Belfry, Montana, are good examples of these.

The Pioneer School is representative of the second stage of educational development in the region. It represented a substantial physical improvement over the one-room log school. The Pioneer School also reflects the early twentieth century movement toward improved standard school facilities. This standard school plan is reflected in the high ceilings and large floor space, a cloak room and large multi-paned banks of windows set high in the walls. This architect-designed school was a radical departure from the folk vernacular architecture of the one-room log school of earlier days.

The Pioneer school is located where it commands an impressive view of the Absaroka Mountains and the Clark's Fork Valley. It is the only remaining country school for at least a fifty mile radius. This is significant in a county which had forty-five school districts early in the century. Rural schools were closed, abandoned, moved and demolished due to consolidation and transportation improvements. The Pioneer school, however, continued to operate until 1969.

The Pioneer School retains excellent integrity of setting, location, feeling and association. The addition has moderately impacted the buildings integrity of design, but because it retains most of its original exterior it retains strong integrity in the areas of workmanship and materials and does convey a strong sense of time and place.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Pioneer School  
name of property  
Park Wyoming  
county and state

In the 1890's, as pioneer families began to settle and farm in the Clark's Fork Valley of the Yellowstone, they formed school district #24. This district ran all the way to Yellowstone Park and the Park Reserve. In 1895, the first school for the area, known as the Serrine School, was built. According to the old school records filed with the State: "The grounds and buildings of the above named district are located on ground that belonged to the public domain when the site was selected so that whoever the land reverts to when deeded, a deed will have to be obtained by the school board. The building was constructed constructed by H.M. Simpson and sons, William Fouse, and W.O. Sirrens and sons and the labor and money expended in the construction of the same was donated to the district. The outer buildings viz coal house and the two closets were built at the expense of the district...A well of water is very much needed but the cost of making one is great...There are seventeen children of school age in the district."

This school, which operated from 1895 to 1904, was located near the property of Warren and Mary Serrine who also operated a stage stop, ferry crossing of the Clark's Fork, and the first post office which was in existence in 1891. The poost office, the community, and the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone were named for the Lewis and Clark expedition. ( Present day Clark is located ten miles upriver from the Serrine Ranch. The post office has changed locations from the Serrine Ranch to the Berry Ranch and finally to the Lindquist Store where it operated until 1967. )

According to the 1900 Big Horn County census, which encompassed all of what is now Park County, this Montana border community was settled in the 1890's by the farmers, miners, and ranchers. The day of the cattle king was waning and irrigated farming was coming in on its shirtils bringing with it the first significant population in the Big Horn Basin. The Red Lodge-Meeteetse Trail ran through the Clark area and was the main North-South transportation route through the Big Horn Basin connecting the Northern Pacific railroad at Red Lodge with the Union Pacific at Rawlins.

In 1904, the first Pioneer School was built according to the school board minutes.

"A special meeting will be held in School House district #24, Big Horn County, Wyoming on the 21st day of May, 1904 at 2 o'clock P.M. for the purpose of considering the question of bonding said district to build one school house, one shed, two outhouses, one cistern, one coal house and purchase school house site, and fence in the same...The school was erected on Ed Simpson's property. Bonds for the new school were set at \$1500. This was one of the first standard schools in the area. According to school records compiled by Cody old-timers this school was sold in 1949 and moved to Ralston. School District #24 became School District #4 when Park County was established in 1910.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Pioneer School  
name of property  
Park Wyoming  
county and state

Pioneer School held classes from 1914-1969. Class rolls indicate that enrollment fluctuated from as few as five students to as many as twenty-eight students over the years.

Education was very important to the Park County populace. Although the Pioneer School was actually constructed before the plan and bulletin for standardizing rural schools was issued during the school year 1919-1920, the architect of the Pioneer School incorporated concepts of hygiene and lighting into the construction of this school in 1914. When standard schools were first recognized in Wyoming in 1920, Park County had nine schools that received the "Standard School" rating which was many more than the other counties in the state. Eight other counties had schools that received the "Standard School" moniker but each of those counties only had one or two schools unlike Park County's nine.

In an attempt to modernize and update the school, a teacherage addition was added in 1953 along with indoor bathrooms and plumbing. In 1956, the building was upgraded and a music room was added to the North side of the building. For the first time playground equipment was installed and the grounds were improved. Until 1957 classes were held for the first through the eighth grades. After that time classes were only held through the sixth grade with kindergarten being added in 1961. The upper grades attended classes at the school in Belfrey, Montana.

School District #4 consolidated with Powell School District #1 in 1969. On August 14, 1970, the Pioneer School, along with two acres, was deeded to the Pioneer Service Group to be used as a Community Center. It is currently governed by a board of five directors.

School District #4 consolidated with Powell School District #1 in 1969. On August 14, 1970, the Pioneer School, along with two acres, was deeded to the Pioneer Service Group to be used as a Community Center. It is currently governed by a board of five directors.

Over the years the Pioneer Community Center has been used to hold dances, extension club meetings, card parties, anniversary and wedding parties, receptions, benefits, carry-in dinners, and the Clark Reunion. The Pioneer School still serves as a gathering place and landmark tying the community to its past.

On September 9, 1913, board members W.W. Ballard, C.A. Pearson, and Edith Simpson Simpson, held an election to determine whether the taxpayers of the district would support a bond issue to fund a new school. The board resolution read, "Whereas, it is necessary for the proper conduct of the school in said district number four, that a suitable school building be erected and furnished and whereas, there are not sufficient funds in the treasury of said school district number four now available for the erection and furnishing of a suitable school building..." \$2500 in bonds were issued for sonstruction of the new school. The school was located on 2 acres owned by Josephine Green Lukes and sold to School District #4 for \$1.00.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Pioneer School  
name of property  
Park Wyoming  
county and state

According to school records, the following teachers taught at the Pioneer School from 1913 on.

1913-1914 Frances Scott  
1914-1915 Jennie Powers  
1915-1916 Mary Paxton  
1916-1917 Nellie Underwood Chance  
1917-1918 Alpha Vogel  
1918-1919 Mabelle Godfrey  
1919-1920 Mabelle Godfrey  
1920-1921 " "  
1921-1922 " "  
1922-1923 Fay Till  
1923-1924 Helen E. Peterson  
1924-1925 Helen E. Peterson  
1925-1926 Margaret O'Donnell  
1926-1927 Helen Peterson  
1927-1928 Fern Ashley  
1928-1929 Emily Anderson  
1929-1930 Dorothy Hardee  
1930-1931 Dorothy Hardee  
1931-1932 Alice Moore  
1932-1933 Alice Moore  
1933-1934 Mildred McFarland  
1934-1935 " "  
1935-1936 " "  
1936-1937 " "  
1937-1938 "  
1938-1939 Miss Bessie Travess  
1939-1940 Miss Bessie Travess  
1940-1941 Wilma Mailander  
1941-1942 Florence E. Wogoman  
(Mary Humphrey)  
1942-1943 Florence E. Wogoman  
1943-1944 Olga Otonichar  
1944-1945 Elmarie Badura  
1945-1946 Elmarie Badura  
1946-1947 " "  
1947-1948 " "  
1948-1949 Dorothy Legg  
1949-1950 Frances Townsend  
1950-1951 Helen Parrish  
1951-1952 " "  
1952-1953 " "  
1953-1954 " "  
1954-1955 " "  
1955-1956 " "  
(Nannie Walker)  
1956-1957 Sylvia Dickson

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Pioneer School  
name of property  
Park Wyoming  
county and state

1957-1958	Marjorie Cushman
1958-1959	Marjorie Cushman
1959-1960	Carol Brown
1960-1961	Betty Heaser
1960-1961	Mrs. Nannie Walker
1961-1962	Betty Heaser
1961-1962	Nannie Walker
1962-1963	Dorothy LaFollette
1963-1964	Dorothy LaFollette
1964-1965	" "
1965-1966	Mrs. Margaret Dempster
1967-1968	Helen Walker
1968-1969	Helen Walker

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Pioneer School  
name of property  
Park Wyoming  
county and state

School District #24. "Board Minutes." 1896-1905, 1913-1919, 1951-1958. Park County Historical Society Archives.

School District #24. "Description of School." 1895. Wyoming State Archives, Museums and Historical Department, Archives-Records Management Division, Cheyenne.

School District #24. "Teachers." 1913-1969. Wyoming State Archives, Museums and Historical Department, Archives-Records Management Division, Cheyenne.

Singer, Dorothy. Personal Communication, Cody, WY., 7/92 (former student and teacher at Pioneer School).

Newspapers

Billings Gazette, Billings, Montana, June 28, 1964; "Meeteetse Trail's Dilworth Ranch."

Powell Tribune, Powell, Wyoming, June 25, 1981; "Clark Pioneer Center Meets Community's Needs."

Powell Tribune, Powell, Wyoming, March 24, 1992; "Clark Residents Try to Preserve Community's Heritage."

Drake, Vernon. Architect Plans for Pioneer Plans for Pioneer School, 1955.

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

Hanson, Janet. Personal Communication, Cody, WY., 7/92 (former Pioneer School student).

Hanson, Janet and Cook, Jeannie. History of the Pioneer School. Unpublished manuscript, 1992.

Murray, Ester J. The Red Lodge-Meeteetse Trail. Unpublished manuscript, 1985.

Pioneer School Class Lists, Monthly Reports, 1940-1966. Park County Historical Society Archives.

Trenholm, Virginia Cole. Wyoming Blue Book. Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, Cheyenne, Wyoming. 1974.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

Pioneer School  
name of property  
Park Wyoming  
county and State

44° 58' 22.5'' N. Latitude  
109° 05' 00'' W. Longitude

A tract of land situated in the S.W. , S.W. of Section 29, Township 58, North, Range 101 W. of the 6th p.m., Park County, Wyoming, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the SE of the SW , SW of Section 29, thence W 295.17 feet along the South boundary of said Section, thence N 295.17 feet parallel to the East boundary of said Section, thence E. 295.17 feet parallel to the South boundary of said Section, thence S 295.17 feet parallel to the East boundary of said Section to the point of beginning containing two (2) acres more or less together with all improvements thereon and all appurtenances and hereditaments thereunto anyway appertaining.

The boundary includes the schoolhouse, playground, and playground equipment that have historically been part of the two acre Pioneer school property. The school building faces South and is situated on a two acre parcel of land lying in a right angled parallelogram. The acreage is enclosed by a wire fence except for the West side. County road 1-AG runs South of the school as well as the Clark ditch. The West side borders a pasture and dairy while the North side borders unclaimed prairie. The school grounds are covered by crested wheat grass, sagebrush, and some cactus and Cottonwood trees. The area near the school building is sanded and gravelled with a baseball diamond Southwest of the building. There are no modern intrusions within these boundaries.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93001011 Date Listed: 10/5/93

Pioneer School  
Property Name

Park County WY State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* *Christine Alice*  
Signature of the Keeper

10/5/93  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**State/Federal Agency Certification:** The property was evaluated at the local level.

**Function or Use:** The current functions is amended to read: "social/clubhouse."

This information was confirmed with Sheila Bricker-Wade of the Wyoming State historic preservation.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)