

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1145

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate location or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name MISSOURI HEIGHTS SCHOOL

other names/site number 5GF.2735

2. Location

street & number COUNTY ROAD 102, 1/2 MILE EAST OF COUNTY ROAD 100 N/A not for publication

city or town CARBONDALE X vicinity

state COLORADO code CO county GARFIELD code 045 zip code 81623

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Margaret C. ... August 9, 1999
Signature of certifying official Date

COLORADO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
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

4. 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):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Beth Boland 9/23/99

MISSOURI HEIGHTS SCHOOL
Name of Property

GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	4	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		
		5	0
			Total

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

RURAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN COLORADO

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION / school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

MISSOURI HEIGHTS SCHOOL
Name of Property

GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property LESS THAN ONE ACRE

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>13</u>	<u>316050</u>	<u>4366720</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
						see continuation sheet	

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title RON SLADEK, PRESIDENT WILLA SONCARTY, RESEARCHER
organization TATANKA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATES, INC. date 21 MAY 1999
street & number P.O. BOX 1909 telephone 970/229-9704
city or town FORT COLLINS state CO zip code 80522

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name MISSOURI HEIGHTS COMMUNITY LEAGUE C/O ANITA WITT
street and number P.O. BOX 96 telephone 970/963-2180
city or town CARBONDALE state CO zip code 81623

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Rural School Buildings in Colorado - MPS

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Property MISSOURI HEIGHTS SCHOOL

GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

The 1917 Missouri Heights School occupies a slightly less than one acre site in rural Garfield County, four miles northeast of the town of Carbondale. At an elevation of 6950', the school is found on the south side of County Road 102, 1/2 mile east of County Road 100 in a rolling open alpine plateau area known since the late 1800s as Missouri Heights. Surrounded by cattle range and scrubland thick with sagebrush, the Missouri Heights School property includes a school building, a teacherage, two outhouses and a coal shed. The property is bordered by a non-original timber fence along the county road to the north, and by wire fencing along the south and west property lines. The open grounds have been cleared of sagebrush and are planted with native grass, with old concrete walkways connecting the school building with the teacherage, the outhouses, a water cistern and the coal shed. Inspection of the buildings and other features on the school property reveal that few alterations have occurred there over the past eighty-two years. With its original setting and built features intact, the Missouri Heights School exhibits a high degree of historic integrity.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING

The one-story, rectangular school building is located in the northeast corner of the site. Facing toward the county road to the north, the building measures 26' from east to west and 44' from north to south. Rising from a concrete foundation that is covered above grade by a separate poured concrete water table, the exterior walls of the wood frame building are finished with white drop siding with green corner boards. Impressed into the concrete water table on the west side of the schoolhouse is the date "Nov. 1, 1917." In addition to the perimeter foundation, the building is supported by three massive log beams brought from nearby Basalt Mountain and installed in 1917 to provide floor strength for community dances. The north and south gable end walls are finished with square butt wood shingles, and the gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles (installed over much older wood shingles), a tin ridge cap and shallow boxed eaves. Piercing the ridge toward the north end of the building is a short brick chimney, adjacent to which is a modern round metal chimney located on the west slope of the roof.

On the north elevation is the main entry, which contains a pair of non-original wood slab doors with a wood threshold and plain wood surrounds. This door provides access to the cloak room. One 1/1 double hung sash window with plain wood surrounds is present, providing light into a teacher's storage room. Access to the front entry is obtained by way of a short concrete sidewalk from the county road and a single concrete step below the main entry door.

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The east elevation is characterized by six 1/1 double hung sash windows with plain wood surrounds. On the south elevation is the rear entry, which contains a wood panel door with a single light and old metal hardware. This entry is accessed by way of a three-step concrete stoop. Also on this wall are three 1/1 double hung sash windows with plain wood surrounds. The west elevation is characterized by a blank wall with no openings or other defining features.

The interior of the one-room school building is vacant, but retains a number of its early characteristics. Among these are the wood floor, plastered walls and ceiling, wood baseboards, picture molding, window and door trim, two interior 5-panel wood doors (into the cloak room and the teacher's storage room), tin sheathing on the floor where the coal stove was located (the stove is no longer present), circa 1940 electrical outlet and switch plates, and wall mounts for glass bulb fire extinguishers at each doorway. Old masonite blackboards coated with black paint are also present, along with fluorescent light fixtures that date from the period just after World War II. Alterations to the building are limited to removal of the original main entry doors and covering of the original wood-shingled roof with asphalt shingles.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TEACHERAGE

The one-story, 16' x 16' teacherage faces to the east and is located 78' west of the school building in the northwest corner of the site. Rising from a poured concrete foundation, the exterior walls of the wood frame building are finished with white drop siding with green corner boards. The east and west gable end walls are finished with square butt wood shingles, and the gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles (over much older wood shingles) and shallow open eaves. Piercing the south roof slope near the west end of the building is a short brick chimney.

The north elevation contains one horizontal rectangular pair of old sliding wood windows with two lights in each. The lights are missing and only the frames are present, along with green plain wood surrounds. On the east elevation is the entrance, characterized by a 5-panel white wood door near the northeast corner of the building, with a wood threshold and plain wood surrounds. Also present near the southeast corner is what appears to be a former door opening filled with drop siding, and a 5-panel wood door that is nailed to another opening in the center of the wall. On the ground is the concrete foundation of what appears to have been a porch or patio that projected from the building. The south elevation contains two square window spaces filled with drop siding, with plain wood surrounds. Below the windows is an old roughly-poured concrete pad, with a second deteriorated pad poured on the top. These pads reportedly served as the

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floor of a shed formerly present on the south side of the teacherage. On the west elevation is the framework for a single horizontal rectangular pair of old sliding wood windows with two lights in each, although only one of the windows is still present and contains no glass. All of the windows on the teacherage are currently boarded shut from inside the building.

DESCRIPTION OF THE OUTHOUSES

The eastern, girl's outhouse is a small 4' x 5' wood frame building located 25' to the southeast of the coal shed. Originally erected to face toward the west (a concrete step and a depression at the end of the sidewalk mark its original location), the outhouse was knocked over by high winds in recent years and has been uprighted several feet north of its original location and now faces toward the east. The building contains a wood floor and seat, white drop siding with corner boards on the walls, and a gabled roof with open eaves and asphalt shingles. The wood plank door has retained its original metal hardware. Small triangular openings are found high on the side walls of the outhouse, along with a larger triangular opening above the door.

The western, boy's outhouse is identical to the girl's outhouse in most details. Located 30' to the southwest of the coal shed, the building is found at the end of the sidewalk in its original location and faces toward the west. Characteristics that differ from the eastern outhouse include the dirt floor and penknife graffiti found on the interior walls.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COAL SHED

The 6' x 8' coal shed faces to the north and is located 85' directly south of the school building's rear entrance. This small wood frame structure with no foundation has a dirt floor (still covered with coal), white drop siding with corner boards on the walls, and a gabled roof with open eaves and asphalt shingles. A vertical plank door on old hinges is found on the north elevation, and a single open window frame with no lights is located on the south elevation.

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER FEATURES

Swingset: The swingset is located adjacent to the south elevation of the school. Constructed of steel pipes that support three swings, the equipment dates from the period prior to 1938 and is in good condition.

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Water Cistern: The water cistern is located 59' due west of the school's rear entrance stoop and 39' southeast of the teacherage. This subsurface feature consists of an at-grade concrete pad with a hole in the center (currently sealed with plywood) and presumably a concrete-lined underground tank. It is not known whether a pump or a bucket was formerly used to draw water from the cistern, which dates from the period prior to 1940.

Sidewalks: Narrow concrete sidewalks are found on the site in several locations, all of which appear to date from the property's early years. One short sidewalk runs from the fence along County Road 102 to the front entrance of the school. A stile was formerly located at the fence to allow students to enter and leave the school grounds without letting the horses out (many students rode their horses to school and allowed them to graze on the grounds during class hours). Another sidewalk runs to the south from the school's rear entrance stoop to the coal shed, with forks running to the southwest and southeast from just north of the coal shed to the outhouses. The final length of sidewalk runs to the west from the school's rear entrance stoop to the water cistern, and then to the northwest from the cistern to the teacherage.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1917 Missouri Heights School meets National Register Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. It is significant on the local level as an important component of the educational system in this rural alpine setting. The school was developed as a result of the late 19th- and early 20th-century growth of Missouri Heights as a farming and ranching area, which by 1917 was in need of a conveniently located one-room school for area children. In addition, the property is significant in the area of social history due to its use as a community center, where holiday celebrations, ranch meetings, dances and other community events were held for area ranch families and workers.

The Missouri Heights School is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of an architectural style and period. In particular, the building is a good representative example of vernacular architecture applied to an early 20th-century school property located in a mountainous ranching area. The buildings and structures on the site, designed and constructed by local ranchers, served area students and the wider community for thirty-nine years and are in good condition today. Contributing resources on the property include the schoolhouse, teacherage, two outhouses and a coal shed.

This unusually intact complex of buildings and structures, located in a virtually pristine setting, exhibits an excellent degree of historic integrity and meets the registration requirements of the schoolhouse property type defined in the Rural School Buildings in Colorado National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. Characteristics that underscore the Missouri Heights School's eligibility include the development of the property as a rural school facility within the period of significance, the existing high degree of historic integrity (both exterior and interior) of the school building, the historic significance of the school facility in relation to local education and social history, the existing integrity of the school grounds and outbuildings and structures, the site's largely unchanged rural setting, and the employment of vernacular utilitarian architecture on all of the buildings and structures found on the property.

While approximately twenty of these small schools are still found across Garfield County (many of them moved or altered), the Missouri Heights School is unusually complete and is only the second to be nominated for National Register listing, the other being the sandstone, two-room 1897 Battlement Mesa School fifty miles to the west in Parachute. The Missouri Heights School's period of significance begins in 1917 when the property was developed, and ends in 1956 (under Criteria Consideration G) when the school was closed as a result of legislated statewide district consolidation.

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Property MISSOURI HEIGHTS SCHOOL

GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Missouri Heights is an alpine ranching and farming area, comprised of approximately twenty-four square miles of high rolling plateau (mean elevation 7000' above sea level). Located generally four miles northeast of Carbondale, Missouri Heights is accessed by way of County Road 100 north from Highway 82 at Catherine, or via Upper Cattle Creek Rd. north from El Jebel. Open and largely treeless, the area consists of wide expanses of sagebrush, grassed cattle pasture and rich soil of volcanic origin, and is known for its mild summers and often windy winter conditions. Looming above the plateau to the south is the snow-capped Mount Sopris, at 12,953' in elevation one of Colorado's most impressive peaks, while the east end of Missouri Heights is framed by 10,866' Basalt Mountain.

Prior to the early 1880s, Missouri Heights was a pristine, undeveloped area within a large tract of west-central Colorado controlled by the White River and Uncompahgre Ute Indians, who had lived on the land for generations and were removed to Utah in 1881. With the region opened up to Anglo-American settlement, Garfield County was established in 1883 and the first Government Land Office survey of what later came to be known as Missouri Heights was completed the following year. Homesteaders arrived to claim and work the rich land over the next several decades, a number of them from Jamesport, Missouri. These early pioneers cleared vast expanses of sagebrush and through years of hard labor established ranches and farms where they began to raise cattle and planted crops of hay, oats, barley, wheat and potatoes. In addition, they built simple houses, barns, animal pens, potato cellars and schools. Although they had managed to make their way to the area from various points in the midwest and eastern United States, the pioneers who settled in Missouri Heights were often barely able to eke out a living. Many of the families came and went after losing what little they had trying to succeed at farming or ranching there. Others persisted and began to create a sense of community through their years of living and working in the area. The 204-acre parcel of land upon which the Missouri Heights School would later be erected was homesteaded during the 1890s. A succession of owners and renters operated ranches there into the 1900s, and in 1912 the property was acquired by W.D. Moore and G.L. Moore of Sedgwick, Kansas.

Throughout Missouri Heights' first three decades of settlement, the children of area ranchers and farmers attended school at one of several locations. Among these were the 1886 Catherine School (2 miles south of the Missouri Heights School), the 1888 Upper Cattle Creek School (2-1/2 miles north), the 1889 Crystal Springs School (2 miles west), and the 1903 Blue Creek School (2-1/2 miles to the east). Although these distances do not sound large to modern travelers, they presented great challenges to the children, teachers and parents attempting to reach school and return home on foot, on horseback, and in early autos during potentially deadly

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winter storms and along often impassable frozen or muddy dirt roads during the school months. Schools of the day were typically built at intervals of approximately two to three miles to allow for convenient access, and by the mid-1910s it was clear that the core area of Missouri Heights was lacking in a centrally-located school building.

During the fall of 1917, in a process that had already occurred at thousands of school sites across the western states, a group of Missouri Heights ranchers and farmers gathered to construct a new school for their children on a single centrally-located acre of land donated for the purpose by W.D. Moore and G.L. Moore. Residents of the area, which was part of Crystal Springs School District 26, had applied earlier to the County Superintendent of Schools for permission to erect a new schoolhouse. With approval granted, a committee of men was formed to coordinate the construction, which was overseen by local carpenter Fred Holgate. The ranchers and farmers donated their labor and funds were somehow acquired to purchase materials from suppliers in Carbondale. One rancher, Frank Smith, hauled the lumber to be used in the building from Carbondale with his wagon and team of four mules, while others carted sand and gravel for the concrete foundation from the Roaring Fork River, located more than two miles to the south and 650' lower in elevation than the school site.

Construction of the Missouri Heights School at a bend in County Road 102 took place in early November, immediately following the harvest of potatoes and winter wheat, and just after many of the ranchers had finished herding their cattle to lower elevations for the coming winter. The building was completed by the middle of the month, and Edna Cass of Rifle, Colorado was hired as the first teacher. With its completion, the Missouri Heights School (District 48) became the newest of approximately 55 public education buildings in Garfield County. In April 1919, W.D. Moore and G.L. Moore signed a warranty deed granting the Missouri Heights School property to the district, with the stipulation that if the site ever ceased to be used for school purposes the property would revert to the grantors or their heirs.

As a result of financial necessity and a utilitarian need to erect the school efficiently (using limited materials and with the work scheduled between the end of the harvest season and the onset of winter), the building was designed in the unornamented rectangular shape that was beginning to be criticized as uninspired and inadequate by educational reformers of the period. This mass vernacular style was in fact common throughout the western United States, and the builders of the Missouri Heights School apparently turned to their own ideal concepts of what a rural school should look like rather than to the inspiration of architect-prepared plans or the model school architecture being promoted by reformers. The schoolhouse was erected to address the harsh winters and the building's planned community uses. For example, the concrete perimeter foundation was strengthened through the placement of three cross-beams under the wooden

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floor, consisting of massive spruce logs brought to the site from nearby Basalt Mountain. This provided additional stability for community dances, an investment deemed worthy of the extra effort because the floor at the nearby Upper Cattle Creek school noticeably and disturbingly bounced with the weight and motion of Saturday night dancers. Although the building was not insulated, the main entry on the north provided access to a cloakroom that served as a separate entry vestibule and kept the foul weather out of the main schoolroom. In addition, the windows were placed on the east and south elevations, providing the classroom with morning and mid-day light, while sheltering them from the prevailing winter winds.

Typical of rural schools of the time, the building was heated with a coal stove located near the north-central wall of the schoolroom, above a heat-reflecting metal pad that also protected the wood floor from igniting. The coal was hauled into the building by the teacher and older students from a small storage shed erected at the end of a narrow sidewalk 85' south of the school. No electricity was available, and restrooms were found in the two outhouses located approximately 100' down the south sidewalk and just past the coal shed. Almost 60' west of the school's rear door was a concrete underground water cistern, filled by area ranchers and used by the students to draw drinking water. The only other developed features on the surrounding grounds were a simple playground to the south of the building, a wire fence along the perimeter of the property to keep the students' and teachers' horses from wandering away and the cattle out, and a fence stile north of the main entrance to allow student access to the site. The interior of the school was outfitted with a wood floor, plaster walls and ceiling, inexpensive painted masonite blackboards with chalk rails on the west wall opposite the windows, and movable furniture. A teacher's storage room was constructed in the northwest corner of the building, adjacent to the cloakroom and separated from the main classroom by a door. Measuring 26' in width by 44' in length, the building was representative in shape but slightly larger in size in comparison with other typical one-room schools erected throughout the western United States at the time.

In addition to its use as a schoolhouse, the Missouri Heights School served as a community center for area residents, and was appropriately referred to by the *Carbondale* newspaper as the Missouri Heights "community house" when it was constructed. (*Carbondale Item*, 15 November 1917) As such, the building was used for meetings, holiday programs, eighth-grade graduation ceremonies and Saturday night dances, to which everyone brought refreshments and donated a small fee to offset the cost of developing and maintaining the property. Music for the dances was provided by an "orchestra" that often amounted to a fiddler, a saxophonist and a piano player. As the evening wore on, the babies and younger children were put to sleep on the school desks and benches that had been pushed to one side of the room. Coffee and sandwiches were traditionally served at midnight before everyone headed home. If the winter

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weather worsened during the evening, those attending the dance would often stay the night, the adults playing cards until morning while the children slept. At other times, area ranchers and farmers met at the schoolhouse for ditch meetings, to discuss the allocation and release of water provided by the Carbondale Reservoir and Irrigation Company, which had built a reservoir in the area in 1912. A Christmas pageant was held each year, with the guests arriving in horse-drawn sleighs and wearing their finest clothes. On occasion, the Missouri Heights School was also used for wedding dances.

Throughout the Missouri Heights School's history, the typically unmarried female teacher often lived with nearby ranch and farm families during the school year (primarily at the Quakenbush-Bair-Strang ranch to the north across County Road 102). Arriving at the schoolhouse at 7:45 in the morning, she would light the coal stove and prepare for the day's lessons before the students got there. Working every weekday except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and a week-long vacation between Christmas and New Year's Day, the teacher was also required to clean the building. Prior to locking up and going home each day, the coal had to be hauled in, the floor cleaned with a sweeping compound that consisted of raw linseed oil, and the stove emptied of ashes. Many of the female teachers stayed at the school for a few short years, often until they became married and thus violated one of the principal terms of their contract. To ensure that the teacher would be able to arrive consistently, especially during periods of bad weather, and in response to rising standards for teachers nationwide, some rural schools included an adjacent teacherage. In 1936 or 1937, the Missouri Heights community erected a small square structure to the west of the schoolhouse that matched the school building in architectural detail. This building was originally used as a garage for the teacher's car, however during the mid-1940s it was converted for use as a teacher's residence and appears to have primarily been used to house the occasional male teacher employed at the school during its last decade of use.

The Missouri Heights School was attended by anywhere from seven to thirty students each year, with all of the children in grades one through eight grouped together. Following graduation from the eighth grade, those who chose to continue their education were sent to Carbondale to attend high school. Classes began with the ringing of a hand bell at 8 a.m. each day, and the students were released at 4 o'clock. After reciting the pledge of allegiance, the children received a full day of instruction in English language, math, history, music, reading and geography. The older children assisted the teacher by working with the younger students in the room. Field trips were taken on foot, and recess in the playground immediately followed lunch (on cold winter days, the teacher engaged the children with fun indoor activities such as dance lessons). The children and the teacher brought their lunches to school every day, typically consisting of jelly sandwiches, fried eggs, apples and homemade bread. The poorer children often arrived with nothing more than biscuits, bread or leftover pancakes from breakfast. Some of the mothers

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would bring hot soup and other dishes for the children to share in the winter, and one teacher was known to bring hot chocolate that was kept warm on the coal stove. Drinking water was hauled by rope and bucket from the underground cistern. Sometime between 1939 and 1946 the Missouri Heights School was wired for electricity, greatly enhancing the school's usefulness and comfort during the sometimes dark winter days and long winter evenings.

In 1939, Betty-Jane Kreutz began teaching the thirteen students at the Missouri Heights School at the age of 19. After obtaining her certificate from Western State Teachers' College in Gunnison, she was offered a contract to teach at the little school for a salary of \$80 per month. Reminiscing about her two years as a teacher there, she stated that she was most taken with the children under her care: "They had a rough time, picking potatoes, skimping on clothes, and managing their meager resources carefully. However, they were very intelligent, very creative, and just plain nice. I truly enjoyed my years of teaching on Missouri Heights." (Witt, p. 451) Over the following decades, her career took her from Missouri Heights to the Arapahoe County suburbs of Denver, where she received the Colorado Teacher of the Year Award in 1981.

Calls for district consolidation began in Colorado during the early 1900s, although the movement faltered for a period of time because of the reluctance of rural residents to close their local schools and community centers. Following the population decline in rural areas that began after World War I, and the shift in priorities brought about by the Great Depression and World War II, the nation emerged from the previously troubled decades with renewed energy for educational reform by the late-1940s. In addition, the post-war improvement of roads and development of reliable school buses made travel to consolidated schools more convenient for rural students. The issue of consolidation returned to the forefront of education reform in Colorado, and was implemented in the state with passage of the School District Reorganization Act of 1949 (House Bill 900), which appointed a committee in each county to prepare consolidation plans that would be approved by the State Commissioner of Education and then submitted to a public vote.

As a result of this statewide effort, the Missouri Heights School's long history came to an end in 1956 when the facility was closed and its students began to travel by bus to attend classes in Carbondale. Although the Saturday night dances continued for a short time, within a few years they ceased as well, a victim of television and the home-based entertainment it offered. The other one-room schools in Garfield County were also closed by the late 1950s, eliminating what had for decades served as each rural community's focal point and place of gathering. The Missouri Heights School property was acquired in 1963 by the Missouri Heights Community League, a non-profit group of area ranchers and residents that plans to reopen the schoolhouse for community events and is currently raising funds to restore the property to its original condition.

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Property MISSOURI HEIGHTS SCHOOL

GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

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GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

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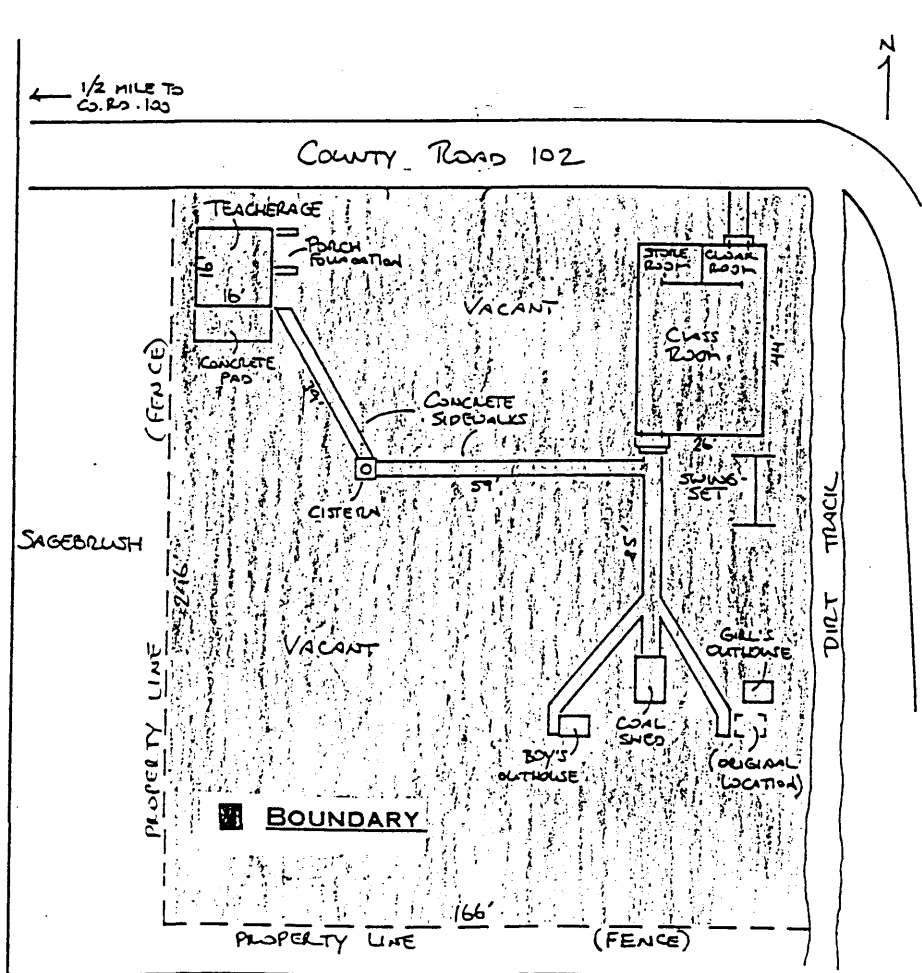
GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Missouri Heights School property boundary includes the corner square acre lying in the northeast corner of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 20, Township 7 South, Range 87 West, Garfield County, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the parcel of land historically associated with the school property.



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Property MISSOURI HEIGHTS SCHOOL

GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information applies to all photographs submitted with this registration form:

Name of property:	Missouri Heights School
City, county and state:	Carbondale Vicinity, Garfield County, Colorado
Photographer:	Ron Sladek
Date of photograph:	6 May 1999
Location of negative:	Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc. P.O. Box 1909, Fort Collins, CO 80522

- Photograph #1: View of the Missouri Heights School (at the center of the photo) from County Road 100, 1/2 mile to the northwest. View to the southeast.
- Photograph #2: View of the Missouri Heights School from County Road 102 to the southeast. View to the northwest.
- Photograph #3: View of the north and east elevations of the schoolhouse from the northeast across County Road 102. View to the southwest.
- Photograph #4: View of the south and west elevations of the schoolhouse. View to the northeast.
- Photograph #5: View of the south and east elevations of the schoolhouse, with the early swingset on the left. View to the northwest.
- Photograph #6: View of the date "Nov. 1, 1917" in the concrete water table on the west side of the schoolhouse.
- Photograph #7: Interior view of the schoolroom, with the door to the teacher's storage room at center.
- Photograph #8: Interior view of the metal floor pad and flue where the coal stove was formerly located at the north end of the schoolroom.
- Photograph #9: Interior view of the rear door in the schoolroom.

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Property MISSOURI HEIGHTS SCHOOL

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Photograph #10: Interior view of the southeast area of the schoolroom.

Photograph #11: View of the south and east elevations of the teacherage. View to the northwest.

Photograph #12: View of the north and west elevations of the teacherage. View to the southeast.

Photograph #13: View of the underground water cistern, with the teacherage in the distance. View to the northwest.

Photograph #14: View of the underground water cistern, with the schoolhouse in the distance. View to the east.

Photograph #15: View of the coal shed and outhouses from the back door of the schoolhouse. View to the south.

Photograph #16: View of the north and east elevations of the coal shed. View to the southwest.

Photograph #17: View of the south and west elevations of the coal shed. View to the northeast.

Photograph #18: View of the north and east elevations of the (eastern) girl's outhouse. View to the southwest.

Photograph #19: View of the south and west elevations of the girl's outhouse, with the concrete step in the foreground in the outhouse's original location. View to the northeast.

Photograph #20: View of the south and west elevations of the (western) boy's outhouse. View to the northeast.

Photograph #21: View of the north and east elevations of the boy's outhouse. View to the southwest.

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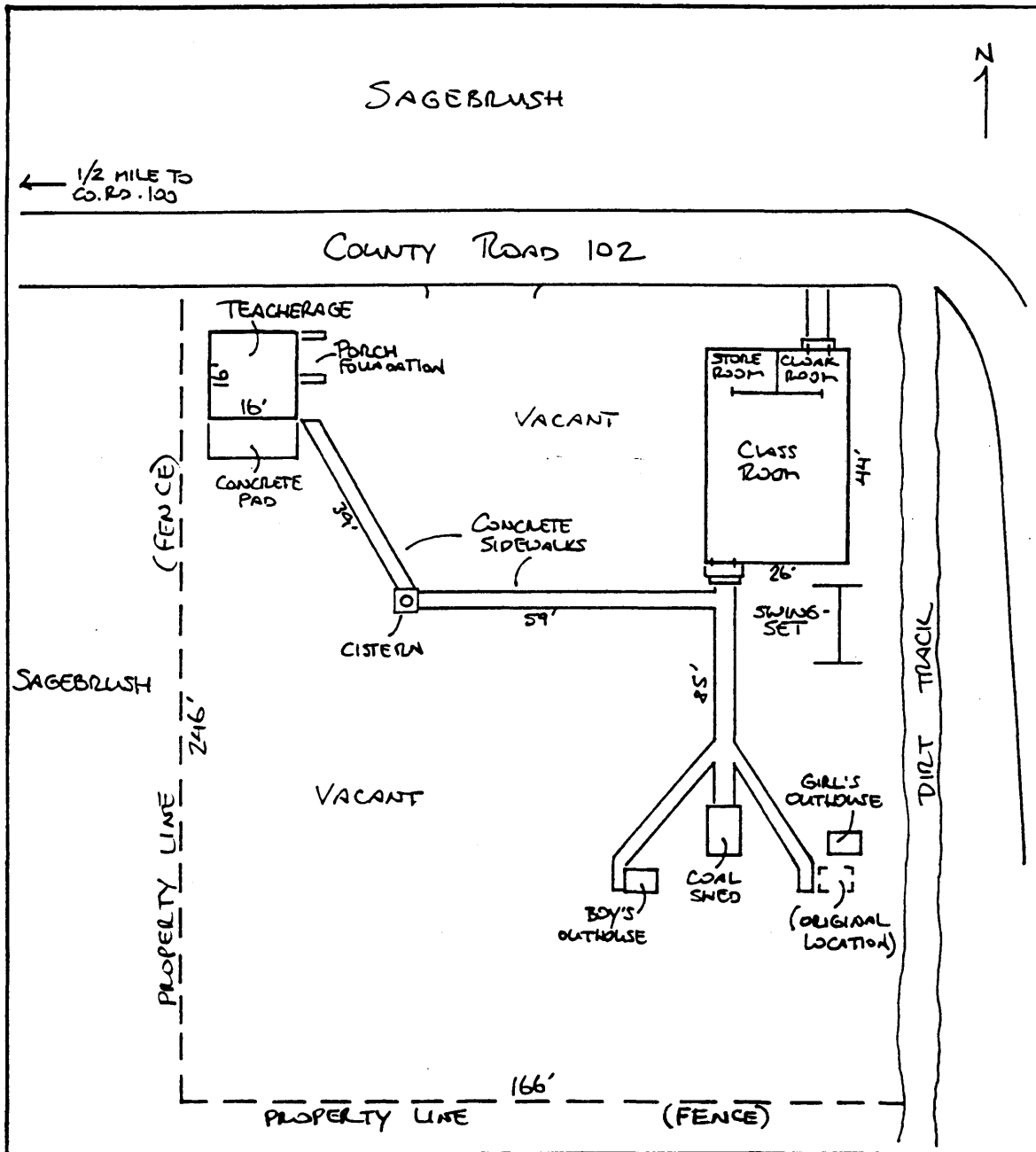
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Property MISSOURI HEIGHTS SCHOOL

GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

MISSOURI HEIGHTS SCHOOL - SITE PLAN

(not to scale)



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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
CARBONDALE, COLORADO
7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
1961, PHOTOREVISED 1987

