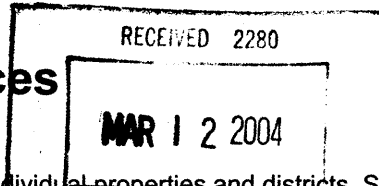


337

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 determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 an 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 Old Trail School  
other names/site number Reed School; 5MR707

2. Location

street & number 421 High Street [N/A] not for publication  
city or town Wiggins [X] vicinity  
state Colorado code CO county Morgan code 087 zip code 80654

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Georgiana Cartez State Historic Preservation Officer 3/04/04 Date  
Signature of certifying official/Title

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society  
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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  
[ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper  
Beth Boland

Date of Action  
4/22/04

Old Trail School  
Name of Property

Morgan County, Colorado  
County/State

### 5. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

#### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

#### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>buildings</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>sites</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>structures</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>objects</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Total</u>

#### 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.

0

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

School

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Museum

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
American Movements

---

---

---

---

---

#### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>Concrete</u>
walls	<u>Weatherboard</u>
roof	<u>Metal</u>
other	<u></u>

#### Narrative Description

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

Old Trail School                      Morgan County, Colorado  
Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS

Section number   7   Page   1  

---

**DESCRIPTION**

The circa 1912 Old Trail School is a one-story, wood-frame building with a steeply pitched, metal sheathed, front-gabled roof. The school has a rectangular plan (20' x 24') with a projecting front-gabled entry vestibule on its facade. The setting is an open plot of flat land covered by buffalo grass. A flagpole and a modern, non-functional wellhouse complete the landscaping. A cornerstone from a demolished Wiggins high school is used as the base of the flagpole erected on the site in 1974.

The school rises from a concrete and cinderblock foundation. All exterior walls are sheathed in horizontal wood drop siding. All windows are original, wood frame, one-over-one double-hung sash. Installation of undersize metal-frame storm windows necessitated the use of a small wood panel infill at the top of each window opening. Rafter ends and purlins are visible beneath the eaves. A short brick chimney rises through the roof ridge just behind the east gable.

Entry to the schoolhouse is through a glazed three-panel vestibule door. The door is accessed from a concrete stoop. To the north of the door is a window and to the south is a framed wood panel, most likely used for posting notices. A wood panel sign in the gable contains the school name and the notation, "Est. 1917." The north and south sides of the vestibule are without fenestration. The facade of the main building contains a single window.

The south side contains three evenly-spaced windows. The north side mirrors the south with the exclusion of the western-most window. The west (rear) side is without fenestration.

The east, south and north interior walls of the vestibule are sheathed in horizontal bead-board. The west wall consists of the drop siding of the original facade exterior. The vestibule served as a cloakroom and the coat hooks remain along the south wall. The floor is of pine boards and the ceiling is narrow bead-board. A two-panel door opens into the single classroom.

The classroom walls and ceiling are lath and plaster. The floor is of narrow tongue-and-groove oak. The original cast iron stove stands toward the rear of the room, directly in front of the door, and is vented by a long stove pipe to the brick chimney flue over the entry door. A storage cabinet in the east wall to the north of the entry protrudes into the cloakroom.

The interior is furnished with period desks. The blackboard on the west wall is contemporary to the building's use.

**Alterations**

The most significant change to the building has been its relocation. Constructed in about 1912, the building originally stood on the Reed Homestead. The school district relocated the building in 1917 to a site near the Fort Morgan cut-off on the Overland Trail.

School consolidation in 1946 resulted in the relocation of the schoolhouse to Wiggins where it was placed next to an existing school building and used as a music room. Expansion of school facilities in 1963 included the construction of a new music room, rendering the older building obsolete. The Wiggins Historical Group purchased the building in 1964 and relocated it to its present site at 421 High Street.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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

Old Trail School                      Morgan County, Colorado  
Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS

Section number 7 Page 2

The vestibule/cloakroom was added in 1926. It appears that one of the original facade windows was relocated in the vestibule facade. The removal of the window most likely corresponded to the construction of the classroom in-wall storage cabinet.

Minor alterations to the building include interior lighting and heating changes made during its use as a music room, the addition of the metal-frame storm windows, and the replacement of the wood roof shingles with metal panels. At some point the wood stove was moved from the rear to the front of the classroom. Later the stove was returned to the rear and vented to the original chimney.

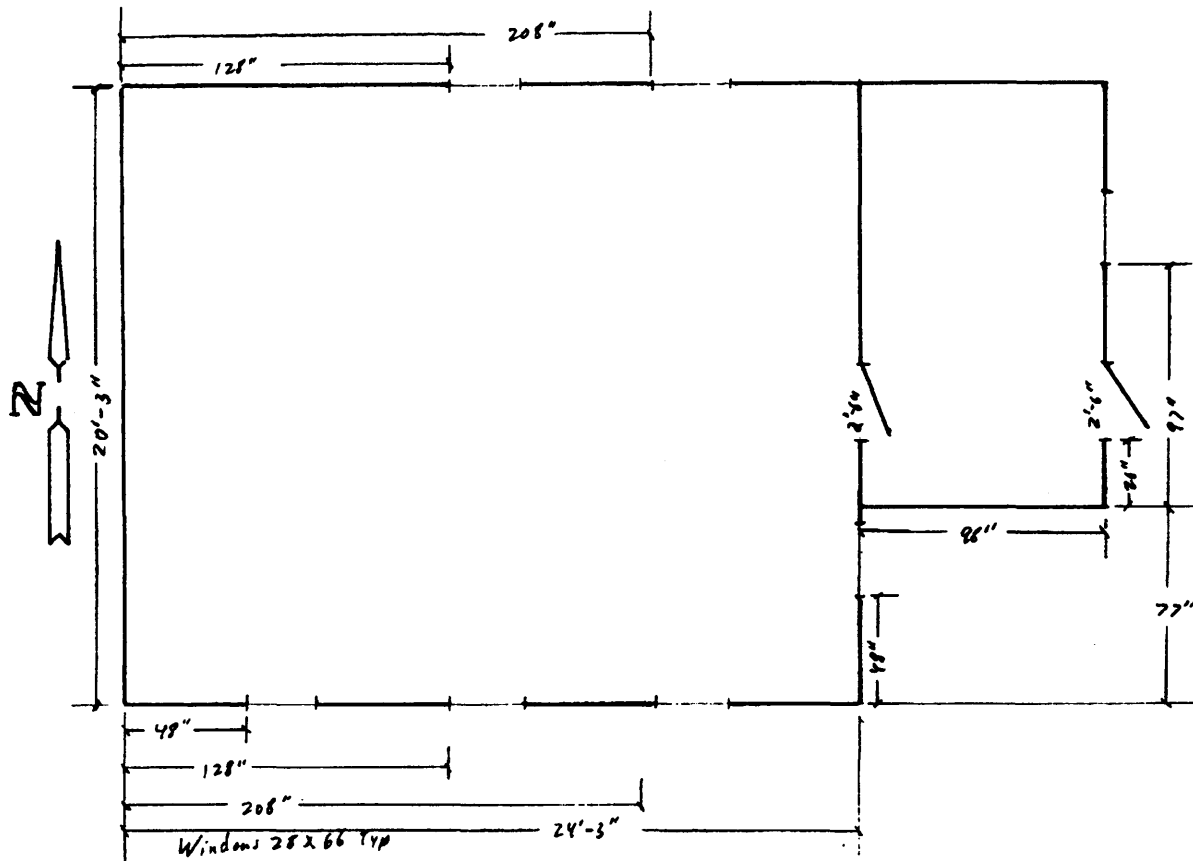


Figure 1. Old Trail School Floor Plan

Old Trail School  
Name of Property

Morgan County, Colorado  
County/State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

### Periods of Significance

1912

1926

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(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:

Colorado Historical Society

\_\_\_\_\_

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Old Trail School                      Morgan County, Colorado  
Rural School Buildings in ColoradoSection number   8   Page   3  **SIGNIFICANCE**

The circa 1912 Old Trail School is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The schoolhouse is a typical example of a prairie school in Morgan County. It exhibits the distinguishing characteristics of rural one-room schoolhouses as defined in the multiple property document, *Rural School Buildings in Colorado*. The period of historical use extends from 1912 to 1964. However, as the school was moved after the end of the period of educational significance, the building is considered to be eligible only for its architectural significance. Two periods of significance apply—1912, for the original construction, and 1926 for the addition of the vestibule/cloakroom, a typical rural schoolhouse feature.

The multiple property document states that:

the most common schoolhouse built in the state during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century was one-story, wood frame with a gable roof and a rectangular plan. It had a central entry in the gabled end; large, double-hung sash windows evenly spaced on the side walls; a single undivided interior space; and often included a belfry.

With the exception of the belfry, the Old Trail School incorporates all these character-defining elements.

Vestibules were commonly added to the basic schoolhouse form. While not originally constructed with a vestibule, the Old Trail School received one as an addition in 1926. The off-center design is unusual. Supporting documentation does not exist, but it is likely that the design was inspired by a desire to retain the use of one of the two existing facade windows. In fact, it appears that the other window was removed and reinstalled in the vestibule's east wall.

The Old Trail School was relocated twice during its historical period of significance, first in 1917 and again in 1946. The school was moved a final time in 1964 after the discontinuance of use as a school district facility. Though removed from the sites of its historical association and though reoriented from its historic alignment, the character-defining architectural features remain intact. The building is fully capable of conveying its architectural significance in its current location and setting.

**Historical Background**

Throughout United States history, the construction of a schoolhouse represented the establishment of a settlement or the development of a region. In the fertile region known as Morgan County, agriculture and ranching quickly became the mainstay of the economy. The land acts of 1862, one of them being the Homestead Act, provided a way for settlers to become land owners. Farmers and ranchers were the predominant settlers. However, as the railroad pushed westward carrying gold seekers to the Rocky Mountains, many would-be or discouraged prospectors and their families turned to agricultural pursuits and settled on the prairie. Growing numbers of families led to a need for schools to educate the children. Country schools began to dot the rural landscape.

On October 13, 1883, local residents organized School District 42 in Weld County. Morgan County was organized separately from Weld County, and in 1889, the records of District 42 were transferred to Fort



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Old Trail School  
Rural School Buildings in Colorado

Morgan County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 5



**Figure 2.** Old Trail School and Students in 1923. Front Row L to R: Standing - Edward Purdue, Virginia Bruen, Verna Hogan, Mae Ledford, Blanchie Ray, Eldean Murphy, James Hogan, Paul Ledford, Tom Hogan. Second Row: Milford Murphy, Alice Harshman, Lucille Harshman, Virgie Ledford, Lucille Ledford. Third Row: Harve Ledford, Wayne Curtis, Charles Bruen, Luther Ledford, Elbert Murphy, Maudie Ray, Mable Ledford. Back Row: Orb Ledford, Lester Neville, Dad Murphy. (Source: Wiggins Historical Group)

The following is a list of the teachers who taught at Old Trail School:

1917-18	Jeanette Edwards	1933-34	Oscar Baer
1918-19	Irene Robison	1934-35	Ruth Lippenberger
1919-20	Benjamin R. Curry	1935-36	Lucille Schiller (Thompson)
1920-21	Edythe McNeil (Curtis)	1936-38	Lucille Kammer
1921-22	Harriet E. Linder	1938-39	Vivian Heitman (Curtis)
1922-23	Willis C. Murphy	1939-40	Mary I. Brown
1923-28	Hetty Sitler	1940-41	Dave Lonsdale
1928-29	Pearl Painter	1941-42	Mary Karnes (Mayer)
1929-30	Edith Hensleigh (Pease)	1942-43	Mary Sanders
1930-31	Lenora Bunting	1943-44	Eva Brooks - Louise Worley Busch
1931-32	George Osborne	1944-45	Louise Worley Busch
1932-33	Miles Milan	1945-46	Eileen Harshman (Segelke)



**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Old Trail School                      Morgan County, Colorado  
Rural School Buildings in ColoradoSection number   9   Page   6  

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Baer, Robert A and Anna C. *History of the Early Pioneer of Wiggins, Hoyt and Surrounding Areas.*

\_\_\_\_\_. *History of Morgan County, Wiggins, Hoyt and Surrounding Areas.* [1966?]

Boyer, Paul S, *The American Nation.* Orlando, FL: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2001.

Doggett, Suzanne and Holly Wilson. "Rural School Buildings in Colorado," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, July 1996/March 1999 (rev.) Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society.

Ellis, John. Wiggins School District Superintendent, Fort Morgan Times Newspaper, 1953.

Gilliland, Shirley L. *Heritage of Wiggins, Colorado*, 1988.

Hogan, William. Golden, CO, phone interview by Verna Segelke, October 1, 2003.

Larson, Elizabeth. Julesburg, Colorado--Overland Trail. 1999. <http://www.overland.com/julesbrg.html>

Reed, Blanche, Ft Morgan, CO, phone interview by Verna Segelke, September 30, 2003.

Old Trail School  
Name of Property

Morgan County, Colorado  
County/State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 578977 4453055 (NAD27)  
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing [ ] 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 Verna Segelke, President; Nancy Mayer, Member; Dean Shepard, Member

organization Wiggins Historical Group date November 4, 2003

street & number 303 Chapman telephone 970-483-7408

city or town Wiggins state CO zip code 80654

**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 Wiggins Historical Group

street & number 303 Chapman telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Wiggins state CO zip code 80654

**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.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Old Trail School                      Morgan County, Colorado  
Rural School Buildings in Colorado

Section number 10 Page 7

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 45-48 inclusive, Block 46, Town of Wiggins, Morgan County, Colorado.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is based on the legally recorded parcel of land occupied by the schoolhouse and its immediate surroundings. This represents the parcel owned and protected by the Wiggins Historical Group, Inc.

## PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-21 except as noted:

Name of Property: Old Trail School  
Location: Morgan County, Colorado  
Photographer: Lyn Deal  
Date of Photographs: November 2003  
Negatives: Possession of the photographer

Photo No.	Photographic Information
1	East and south elevations; view to the northwest.
2	East and south elevations; view to the northwest.
3	East elevation; view to the west.
4	North and west elevations; view to the southeast.
5	West and south elevations; view to the northeast.
6	Window detail, south elevations; view to the northeast.
7	East elevation detail; view to the northwest.
8	East elevation detail; view to the northwest.
9	Cloakroom interior; view to the southeast.
10	Cloakroom interior; view to the northwest.
11	Cloakroom interior; view to the south.
12	Classroom; view to the west.
13	Classroom; view to the southwest.
14	Classroom; view to the southeast.
15	Classroom; view to the northeast.
16	Classroom; view to the northeast.
17	Interior window detail; view to the east.
18	Interior window detail; view to the southwest.
19	Built-in cabinet doors, east wall; view to the northeast.
20	Built-in cabinet with doors open, east wall; view to the northeast.
21	West wall detail of slateboard.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Old Trail School                      Morgan County, Colorado  
Rural School Buildings in Colorado

Section number 10 Page 8

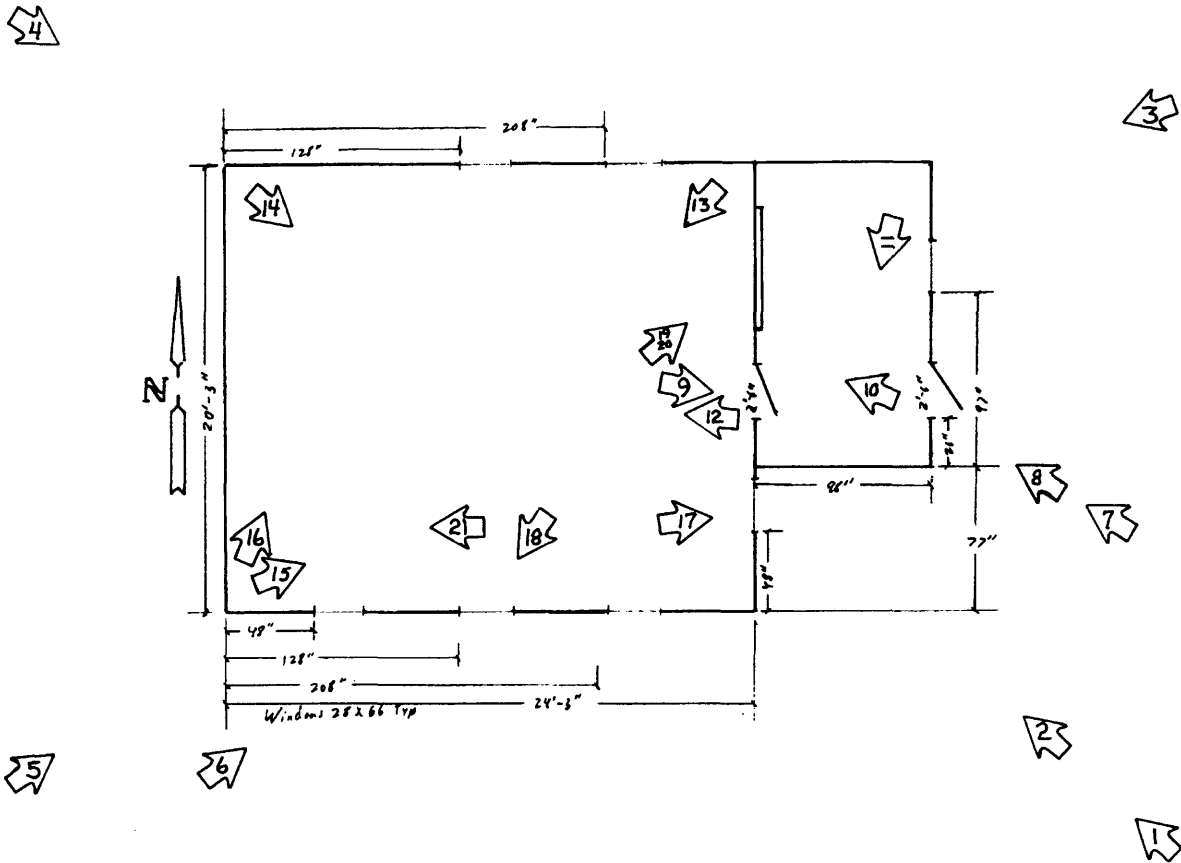


Figure 3. Old Trail School Photograph Location and Views

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

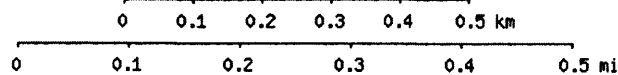
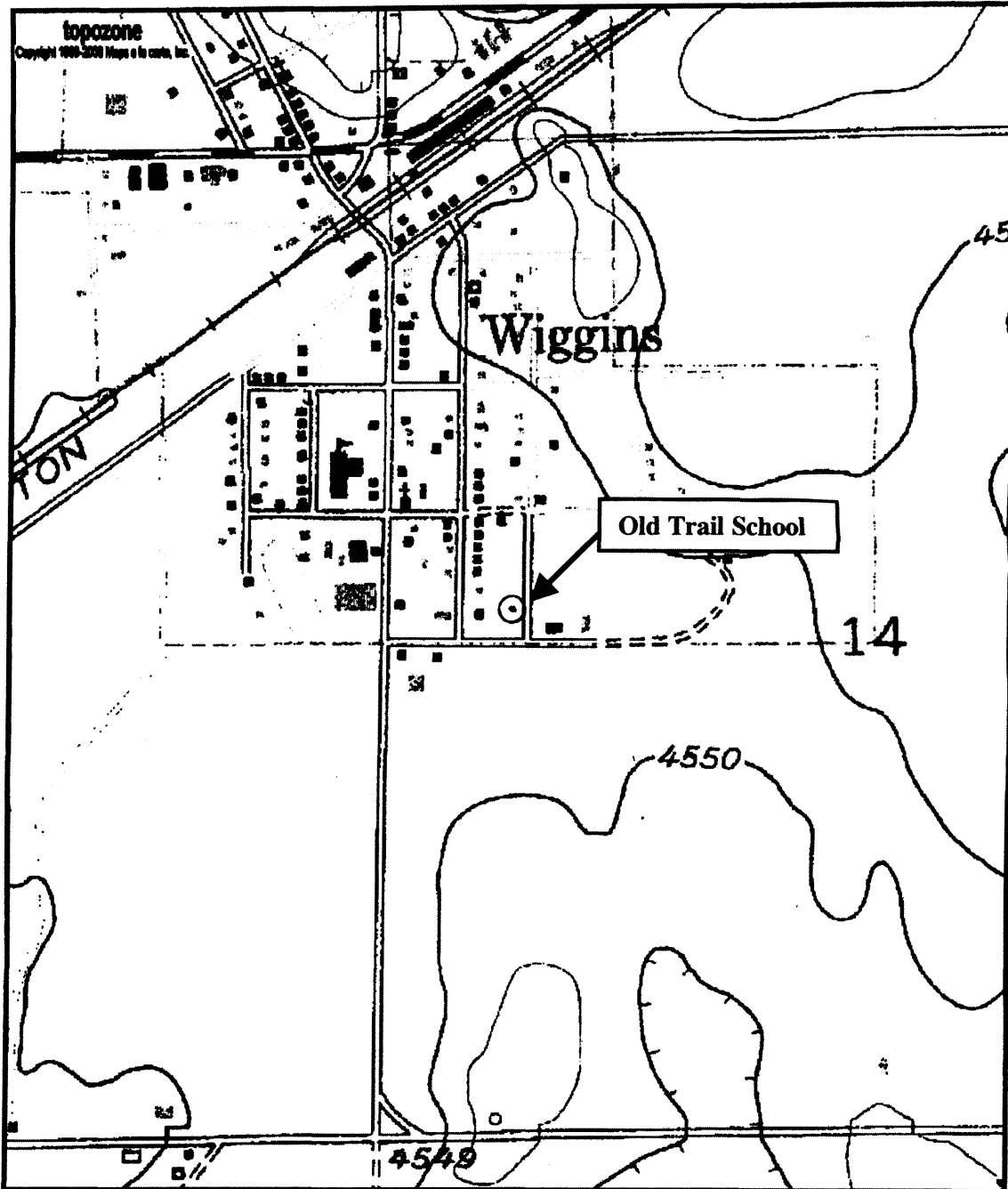
Old Trail School  
Rural School Buildings in Colorado

Morgan County, Colorado

Section number 10 Page 9

**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**  
Wiggins Quadrangle, Colorado  
7.5 Minute Series, 1988

UTM: Zone 13 / 578982E / 4453060N (NAD27)  
PLSS: 6<sup>th</sup> PM, T3N, R60W, Sec. 14 SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
Elevation: 4,555 feet



Map center is UTM 13 578982E 4453060N (NAD27)  
Wiggins quadrangle - TopoZone Pro elevation display  
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum

\*M  
M=9.642  
G=0.599