

3687



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Animas City School
Other names/site number: 5LP.351 / Animas Museum
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 3065 W. 2nd Avenue
City or town: Durango State: CO County: La Plata County
Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 A B C D

| | |
|---|-------------|
|  21 March 19 | |
| Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer History Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation | Date |
| State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government | |
| In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria. | |
| Signature of commenting official: | Date |
| Title : | |
| State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government | |

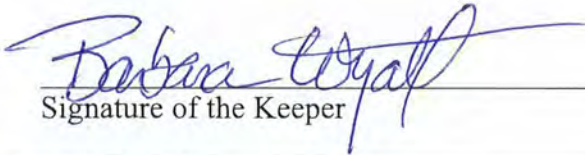
Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

4-23-19
Date of Action

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

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Italianate

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE/Sandstone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Animas City School building stands at the southwest corner of West 2nd Avenue and 31st Street in Durango, Colorado. This area was once the heart of Animas City, the original urban center of the Animas Valley, which was annexed by the City of Durango in 1948. Before the construction of the stone Animas City School in 1904-1905, it was preceded by three other school buildings that the community quickly outgrew—a log cabin (1876), a two-story wood frame school (1878) and a three-room brick building (1880). Constructed out of locally sourced sandstone, the fourth Animas City School is the only public building from Animas City that is still standing and the oldest remaining school building in Durango. Local sandstone comprises the exterior walls of the building. The interior features three stories of classrooms, which have mostly been converted into exhibit gallery space. The new area under the reconstructed hip roof holds the museum collections area. Historic finishes include plastered walls and ceilings, chair rails, original chalk holders, and tongue-and-groove wood floors.

Today, the school building houses the Animas Museum, which is owned and operated by the La Plata County Historical Society. Since taking ownership of the property in 1980, the La Plata County Historical Society has moved three additional historic buildings onto the museum grounds. These buildings are commonly referred to as the Peterson House, the Vulcan Foundry Office, and the Joy Cabin. Due to their move to the property after the period of significance (1905-67), these additional buildings are considered non-contributing.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

Narrative Description

Immediate Surroundings

The Animas City School sits at the base of Animas Mountain. The street address is 3065 West 2nd Avenue, which is at the southwest corner of West 2nd Avenue and 31st Street. The property is on Block 33, Lots 13 through 20 in the City of Durango.¹ The lots are on an east facing slope. Major vegetation includes apricot and apple trees, maple trees, aspen trees, and ponderosa pine trees, as well as two rose bush gardens, two various floral gardens, and small grassy areas on the north and south sides of the property. The school building sits at the center of the property—perhaps slightly northeast of center. The three non-contributing buildings are all south to southwest of the school. The Peterson House is near the southeast corner of the property—nearest to West 2nd Avenue. The Joy Cabin sits south of the school and west of the Peterson House. It is along the property’s southern boundary. The Vulcan Foundry Office is southwest of the school. It sits northwest of the Peterson House and Joy Cabin, up a slight slope. It is nearest West 3rd Avenue and along the property’s western boundary.

Historically, the Animas City School was within the urban center of Animas City. It was surrounded by residential homes and small ranches on its immediate boundaries. The City’s main businesses were just a block away on Main Avenue. The property is currently bordered by residential homes (albeit more densely than in 1905) and a modern charter school (Mountain Middle School). Many major businesses are located only a block or so away on Main Avenue.

Animas City School, 1905, Contributing Building (photos 1-7)

Exterior

The Animas City School has a rectangular footprint of roughly 40’ x 50’ and is two stories with a raised basement level and attic. Rough-cut, irregularly coursed, rock-faced sandstone is the primary wall material, with water table courses of rock-faced stone demarcating the floor levels. Unless otherwise noted, all windows are large, one-over-one double-hung windows with stone lintels, wood sills, and wood jambs. The original hip roof with cross gables and cupola was in place from 1905 until a fire destroyed it in October 1919. A flat roof was constructed in 1919-20. This roof was in place until the reconstruction of the original roof configuration between 2006 and 2008 [*photo 1*]. Today the hip roof with cross gables features asphalt shingles with wood shingles at the gable faces. Frieze boards with brackets visually support the widely overhanging eaves at the cornice line around the entire building and are also found at the eaves within the cross gables. The square cupola at the peak of the hip roof has a small pyramidal roof with a flag pole at its peak, supported by metal posts at the four corners. Semi-circular arched metal frames each opening. The bell hanging in the cupola is not original to the school. It is an historic alarm bell that was donated ca. 2008 to the museum from a property owner in Bayfield, Colorado. Stamped on the bell’s yoke is “Steel Alloy Alarm Bell/ 530/ C.S. Bell & CO. Hillsboro.”

¹ Historically, the lots were 76, 74, 72, 70, 68, 66, 64, and 62 of the Town of Animas City.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

East Side

The east side of the building features the main entrance *[photo 1]* and is symmetrically composed. A long flight of concrete stairs with stone sidewalls and stone-slab and concrete caps leads up from grade at street level to the front door at the main floor, which is set within a central bay that protrudes slightly from the wall on either side. A gable with louvered rectangular opening crowns the top of this bay. The main entrance opening is slightly recessed within a round arch with stone voussoirs. The entrance itself is a double wood door with each leaf featuring a large single light in the upper half and three panels below. A semi-circular transom sits above the double door. Above the entrance within the protruding central bay are two double-hung windows at the second floor. On either side of the bay are two large, double-hung windows on the second floor. Two of these windows are also in place on the main floor, at either side of the entrance. These windows are flanked by small oculus windows.

At the raised basement level, one additional entrance with an historic three-paneled wood door with large single light is visible from the street level, south of the stairs. A double-hung window is to the entrance's left. Underneath the front stairs is another entrance with a three-paneled wood door, which is currently unused. To the north of the stairs the grade is higher and the corresponding windows are therefore smaller and just above ground level. These windows are wood, single light, and fixed.

South Side

The south side of the building is mainly made up of windows *[photo 2]*, which are grouped within two distinct vertical bays. On the west two-thirds of the wall, the windows are set into groups of four with narrow areas of stone between them. This pattern is followed at all three levels. A larger stone gap separates the windows within the remaining one-third of the wall at the east. These windows are set into groups of two with narrow areas of stone between them. This pattern is also used on all three levels. There are a total of eighteen windows on this side of the building. A gable with rectangular louvered opening sits above the larger bay to the west.

West Side

The west side of the building is commonly referred to as the rear exit *[photo 3]*. Due to changes in grade, the raised basement level is not visible at this side. The north half of the wall has a set of three double-hung windows at the main and second levels. In the middle of the wall are four rear-exit doors and the metal fire escape. The original fire escape for the school's second floor was made of wood. This fire escape was damaged in the 1919 fire, and it was removed by the 1940s. A metal slide-type fire escape was installed at the second floor level sometime in the 1940s. This metal slide was in place for the duration of the school era. It was removed by the 9-R School District sometime between 1967 and 1978 because it attracted vandals in the area. In 1979 or 1980, the current wrought iron fire escape was installed by the La Plata County Historical Society. The fire escape for the new collections storage space (within the attic area within the hipped roof) was added as part of the roof reconstruction project. A door leading to the fire escape opens from the central gable at the attic onto a metal balcony. This balcony leads down to the second floor fire escape balcony via a metal ladder mounted to the wall that can be locked at the top. Two identical four-paneled wood doors are located at the second floor balcony

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

on either side of the ladder. A final metal stairway leads to the ground level, where two more four-paneled wood doors are located. South of the fire escape and rear exit doors, the wall has no window or door openings.

A new wall dormer in the center of the rear cross gable accommodates the attic fire escape door. The design for the new reconstructed hip roof was based on historic photos taken between 1905 and 1919, including some that were taken in the aftermath of the 1919 roof fire. These photos show details of the original roof, and enabled the architectural/engineering team for the roof reconstruction project to closely approximate roof dimensions and pitch, depth of the eaves, design and dimensions of the eaves brackets, and design and dimensions of the cupola. The enclosed platform of the original wood fire escape with its gabled roof, seen in the historic photo of the rear of the building taken just after the fire, provided a precedent for the new wall dormer that was needed to accommodate the new collections area fire escape door. A reconstructed brick chimney with modern metal cap protrudes from the north slope of the gable roof.

North Side

The north side of the building is nearly the same as the south with its two vertical bays, except the smaller bay (towards the east) has no openings [photo 4]. The double-hung windows within the larger bay at the west are set into groups of four at the main and second levels. The basement level is slightly below ground at this area and has four openings that correspond to the window pattern above. A fresh-air intake vent is visible at the westernmost opening, with small, rectangular windows that have been boarded up and painted at the other three. As at the south side, a gable with louvered rectangular opening sits above the larger bay to the west. Square anchor plates for reinforcing rods have been installed at the east and west corners of the stone wall at the roofline and below the water table course between the main and second levels.

Interior

On the interior, five classrooms were organized within the three levels of the building. One classroom took up the largest room in the basement, two classrooms were located on the main floor along with the principal's/ nurse's office, and two classrooms were located on the second floor. These rooms remain in the same configuration and are now all used as exhibit and research space. One classroom was restored as an early twentieth-century classroom exhibit to showcase the building's original use [photo 7]. The principal's office is now used as the museum's main office.

Historic finishes throughout the building include plastered walls and ceilings, chair rails, picture rails, chalk boards and original chalk holders that indicate the placement of school-era chalkboards. The floors are all tongue-and-groove wood floors, possibly from the Depression era, with work reportedly done by the WPA (Works Progress Administration). There is no documentation to confirm this claim, only word of mouth comments by school alumni. Wood baseboard trim is also visible.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

Alterations

At some point between the years 1905 and 1919, steel reinforcing rods were placed in the building, presumably to stabilize the exterior walls. Four rods were placed in the north-south axis of the building – two at the east and west ends of the north and south walls near the roof line and two at the east and west ends of the north and south walls just below the belt course between the main and second floors. Two additional rods were placed in the east-west axis of the building at the north and south ends of the east and west walls near the roof line. Photos HP 1 and HP 2, both taken between 1905 and 1919, clearly show the east and south sides of the building. In photo HP 1, the reinforcing rods are not evident; in photo HP 2, the anchor plates for all six rods are clearly visible. It was previously thought that the reinforcing rods were added to stabilize the building after the 1919 fire, but the rods were clearly installed at some point previous to the fire.

Beginning in 1978, periodic and ongoing interior improvement projects have occurred. A primary goal in performing these improvement and maintenance projects was to preserve the historic character and finishes of the building's interior. These projects included plaster and molding repair; repainting of walls, ceilings, and woodwork; rewiring interior lighting; installation of period lighting in selected areas, installation of a security alarm system, and installation of exhibit lighting. In October of 1990, partial repointing of the exterior sandstone masonry occurred.

In the early 1990s, new concrete front steps, front landing, concrete sidewalks, and a concrete driveway were installed. These were the first sidewalks installed on West 2nd Avenue. This project was partially funded through a Colorado Initiative grant, and volunteer help was provided by the Boy Scout Troop No. 501.

From 1993-2000, nine Colorado State Historical Fund (SHF) grants were received by the La Plata County Historical Society (LPCHS). The majority of these grants were used to repair the windows in the building. The window glass had been damaged by vandals and most windows were not operable. Original window sashes were repaired, sash balances were restored, and window jambs, trim, and sills were scraped, sanded, and painted. Some hardware had to be replaced with replicas. The glass was replaced in-kind. Most of the work was completed by Jim Sims Construction with supervision from LPCHS personnel and SHF staff.

In 1998-1999, the front entrance of the building was repaired and restored using another SHF grant. The masonry joints around the entrance were repaired to mitigate deterioration. The original doors on the front entrance had been replaced in the mid-twentieth Century. The original front doors had been moved for interior use. Based on historic photos, the original doors were identified and moved to the front entrance again. Before they were installed, the doors were repaired and repainted. The original hardware found on the doors was also repaired and re-installed.

In late 1999, the east basement exterior door and four back/west exterior doors were addressed. The backdoors were all replaced with replicas, as the originals were deteriorated and damaged by vandals. Door trim and jambs were repaired before the installation of the replica doors. The

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

basement exterior door was stripped, sanded, and repainted. The trim and door jamb were also repaired before the refurbished door was reinstalled.

The largest alteration project on the Animas City School started in 2002.² The Animas Museum received a \$377,000 SHF grant, along with matching grants and private contributions, to reconstruct the original hip roof to the 1905 building.³ The school now closely resembles the original 1905 architecture. Historic photos of the schoolhouse taken between 1905 and 1919 were used to create the construction drawings for the new hip roof. The new space within the attic area of the hipped roof created during the roof reconstruction project has been made into a state-of-the-art collections facility with climate control technologies [photo 5]. It is accessed through a new interior stairwell from the second floor [photo 6].

Peterson House, built ca. 1880s, moved 1997, Non-Contributing Building (photo 8)

The one-story Peterson House sits on the southeast side of the Animas City School property. It is south of the school and east of the Joy Cabin and measures approximately 25' from north/south x 15' from east/west, and 15' high. The Peterson House has a side-gable roof and the main wall material is wood drop siding. The house has two exterior doors: one on the west side and the other on the east. The building has four windows, all of which have double hung wood sashes with two-over-two lights. There is one window on the north wall, two on the east wall, and one on the south wall. The interior roof supports are also wood, but the exterior roof shingles are synthetic recreations of the originals made out of engineered polymer. On the roof is a brick chimney that stands about 3' high. The chimney is no longer functional, but matches the original.

While the exact construction date of the Peterson House is unknown, it can be seen on early Sanborn Insurance Maps of Durango. In both the 1886 and 1890 Sanborn maps, the property is shown on West E Street, which is now West 7th Street in downtown Durango. This property was probably built and used as housing for workers on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad (D&RG). A 1903 obituary in the *Durango Democrat* states that it was the home of a man named "Old Jimmy" McIntyre, who was a railroad pumper for the D&RG.⁴ The home gained its current name from the Laurence and Elizabeth Peterson family, who lived in the house from the 1930s until the 1980s. Laurence R. Peterson was a WWI vet who ran the "All Cars Wrecking Co" out of the house.⁵ Ads for this business can be found in the 1932-34 San Juan Basin directory.

Alterations

The Peterson House and Vulcan Foundry Office were historically located near each other west of the railroad tracks and downtown Durango. The Vulcan Foundry Office was moved and attached to the Peterson House between 1910 and 1930, with 1927 being listed as the official date of

² Dale Rodebaugh, "Animas City Schools Celebrate," *Durango Herald*, September 12, 2004, accessed January 31, 2017.

³ Ibid.

⁴ "Old Jimmy Dead," *Durango Democrat*, 1903, accessed September 13, 2018.

⁵ Arthur Baker, *The Durango News San Juan Basin Directory 1932-1934* (1932).

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

addition. The two structures were separated and moved onto the Animas Museum grounds in June 1997. Prior to its move, the house was going to be demolished to make room for additional Strater Hotel parking. It is currently being rehabilitated inside to be used as an exhibit on a typical 1930s era working-class home in Durango.

Vulcan Foundry Office, built ca. 1903, moved 1997, Non-Contributing Building (photos 9-10)

The one-story Vulcan Foundry Office sits on the southwest side of the Animas City School property. It is southwest of the school and west of the Joy Cabin and measures 14'-4" north/south x 16'-1" east/west, and 14'-7" high. The frame building has a front-gable roof and is clad with corrugated metal. A wood door on the east wall has two panels in the lower third with two tall and narrow arched lights above in the upper portion. A double-hung wood sash window with two-over-two lights is north of the door. Wood steps lead to the front door and lattice-work panels are used as skirting along the bottom of the building. The building sits on concrete blocks and wood beams; it has no permanent foundation. While the exact construction date is unknown, the Vulcan Foundry can first be found in the 1903 city directory with W.J. Godfrey as the proprietor.⁶ The ad states, "The Vulcan Foundry Co. / Estimates furnished on all kinds of iron or brass castings and pattern work / All orders given prompt attention/ 7th & RR Durango, Colo."⁷ By 1915, Charles Godfrey was listed as the proprietor.⁸

Alterations

The Peterson House and Vulcan Foundry Office were historically located near each other just west of downtown Durango. The Vulcan Foundry Office was moved and attached to the Peterson House between 1910 and 1930, with 1927 being listed as the official date of addition. This created a larger living area for residential occupants. The Vulcan Foundry Office was moved to the Animas Museum grounds in 1997 with the Peterson House. The outside of the office is maintained to its historic appearance as the foundry office, not as a residence. The inside is used as storage. There are no current plans to historically interpret the inside of the building.

Joy Cabin, built ca. 1878, moved 1988, Non-Contributing Building (photos 11-12)

The one-story log Joy Cabin is known as the oldest standing building in Durango. It sits on the south side of the Animas City School property, south of the school, east of the Vulcan Foundry Office, and west of the Peterson House. The Joy Cabin has a wood plank door at the north side with a double-hung wood sash window with six-over-six lights to the west of the door. Two similar windows are on the west side, and two on the east. The shallow front-gable roof consists of wood planks. The cabin was built ca. 1878 in Animas City at the corner of present-day 31st Street and Main Avenue, which are Lots 29 & 30 of Block 45 in the City of Durango, formally

⁶ G.A. Killam and John C. Kelley, *Durango-Silverton City Directory 1903* (1903).

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ McKinney, *San Juan Basin Directory 1915*.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

Lots 57 & 59 on Main St. in the Town of Animas City. The first owner of the property was J.H. Pinkerton. The Joy Cabin gained its name from blacksmith Charles Joy. In 1896, Robert Roberts is listed as having the deed on the property. At least seven owners of the cabin are listed from 1896 until 1958 by the Colorado Land Title Company.

Alterations

In 1958, the Four Corners Museum Association gained control of the cabin in order to save it from demolition. The cabin was moved several blocks south to Brookside Park. At this location, the cabin was next to the Durango Chamber of Commerce and served as a makeshift museum for the area. In 1988, the Chamber of Commerce moved south of town to Santa Rita Park, and the cabin, which was considered to be in poor structural condition, needed a new home. It was moved to the Animas Museum grounds in October of 1988 in order to preserve it. Over the next ten years, the cabin was dismantled and rebuilt using traditional methods of construction. In 1998, the newly refurbished Joy Cabin was opened as an 1870s Animas City pioneer log cabin exhibit. The Joy Cabin continues to be one of the favorite exhibits at the Animas Museum.

Integrity

The Animas City School retains integrity sufficient to its area and period of significance. By remaining in its original location, it has retained the integrity of location. The integrity of setting remains much the same as when the school was built and has not been impacted by the arrival of the three non-contributing buildings, which are much smaller in scale and on the periphery of the property. Despite the 1919 fire and the destruction of the hip roof, the community continued to support the school by making needed repairs, including a new flat roof, so that classes could continue to be held in the building. The reconstructed hip roof has returned the building to its original architectural style while retaining its integrity of design and materials. The interior finishes, including plaster walls and ceilings, woodwork and wood floors, have largely been carefully preserved as well. The building's ability to weather the last 114 years, sometimes without proper care, is a testament to the design of architect J. D. Mentzel and contractor Daniel J. McGillis. Details such as the rock-faced stonework and the arched main entrance maintain the building's integrity of workmanship. As the only remaining school in Animas City and the last standing public building from that now annexed town, the Animas City School retains its integrity of feeling and association.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and 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.

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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1905-1967

Significant Dates

1919
1939
1948

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

J. D. Mentzel, Architect
Daniel J. McGillis, Building Contractor

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Animas City School is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Education as the only public school servicing Animas City until Animas City's School District #1 was incorporated into Durango's School District #9 in 1939. It continued to function as an elementary school for the community until 1967. At its onset, the Animas City School served all grades and students within School District #1. As the largest public building in Animas City, the school also played host to elections and public meetings, as well as community theatre presentations and concerts. The community's willingness to repair the building after the 1919 fire, rather than demolish it, testifies to their investment in education and civic awareness.

In addition, the Animas City School is locally significant under Criterion C for Architecture for 1905, the year its construction was complete, as a good local example of Italianate architecture. Architect Julius D. Mentzel designed the school and contractor Dan J. McGillis procured the construction bid for the school on August 6, 1904. Using locally sourced sandstone, the school was ready for classes for the 1905-06 school year. The popular Italianate architectural style, often employed in the eastern United States and usually featuring a symmetrical façade, vertical orientation, bracketed eaves, and square cupola, was used to construct the largest school in the town's history, which served as a principal public building in the Animas City community.

The period of significance for the Animas City School is 1905 to 1967, spanning from the original construction of the building to the year it ceased to function as a school.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A – Education

The Animas City School is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Education as the only public school servicing Animas City until Animas City's School District #1 was incorporated into Durango's School District #9 in 1939. From 1905 until 1939, the Animas City School served all grades and students within School District #1. It continued to function as an elementary school for the community until 1967. As the largest public building in Animas City, the school also played host to elections, public meetings, theatre productions and concerts. Of the four buildings that served as the Animas City School, the stone Animas City School building is the only one that is still standing; it is the oldest remaining school building in Durango; and it is the only remaining public building from Animas City's period of independent government.

Criterion C – Architecture

The Animas City School is further locally significant for Architecture for the year 1905 as an excellent local example of the Italianate architectural style. Identifiable by its multiple stories, vertical orientation, tall and narrow windows, widely overhanging and bracketed eaves, and

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

often featuring a cupola, the Italianate style came into fashion in the eastern United States from 1850-80. As was typical for the time, the communities of the rural interior West adopted the style up to a decade or more after it faded in the country's more populous areas. Although often used for residences, in Colorado the style was also popularly applied to schools, most of which were in relatively urban communities such as Denver and Boulder. Of the twenty-one Italianate schools identified in the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's database, ten are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In Durango, five residences in the East Third Avenue Historic Residential District (5LP.1411, National Register listed October 11, 1984) are identified as Italianate. The Animas City School is the only identified public building in Durango in the Italianate style. Although its arched entrance and rock-faced stonework evoke Richardsonian Romanesque and are atypical for Italianate, which usually favored flat or shallow-arched openings and wood or brick, the school's tall and narrow windows, hip roof with cupola and cross gables, symmetrical façade with central projecting bay, and overhanging eaves with decorative brackets all exemplify the Italianate style.

Historic Background

Settlement of Animas City

The first settlement called Animas City was located on the east side of the Animas River, about twelve miles north of the future town of Animas City. A log cabin settlement, it was founded in 1860-61 by the Baker Party, the first group of Euro-Americans to settle in the Animas Valley. There is some debate as to how many people came to the first Animas City, but it may have been 1,000 or more.⁹ Because of a lack of mining success, harsh winter weather, and the outbreak of the Civil War, the Animas City settlement was abandoned by the summer of 1861.

After the 1874 Brunot Agreement with the Ute Indians opened a section of the Ute Reservation in southwest Colorado to mining and settlement, settlers came back to the Animas Valley.¹⁰ The fertile land of the Animas Valley attracted farmers and ranchers. Merchants were quick to follow the miners and agriculturalists. The valley prospered by supporting the new mining towns further up in the mountains, which had very short or non-existing growing seasons.

The Animas City Townsite Company founded the second Animas City twelve miles south of the original Animas City.¹¹ On August 26, 1876, land for Animas City was purchased from the Fowler Ranch land tract.¹² In two years, Animas City pioneers built a one-room log cabin school, a jail, a drugstore, a hardware store, six grocery stores, two billiards halls, seven saloons, four

⁹ Allen Nossaman, *Many More Mountains, Volume 1: Silverton's Roots* (Denver, CO: Sundance Publications Ltd., 1989), 58, 60.

¹⁰ Robert McDaniel, "Durango's First White Settler," in *The RGS Story, Volume XI – Durango and the Perins Peak Branch* (Denver: Sundance Publications Ltd., 2005), 9-10.

¹¹ Retha Beebe Luzar, *The Animas City Story: A Forerunner of Durango, Colorado* (Durango, Colorado: Retha Beebe Luzar self-published, 1978), 1.

¹² *Ibid*, 2.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

hotels, four restaurants, and a volunteer fire department.¹³ E.H. Cooper was Animas City's first mayor.¹⁴ On October 5, 1878, Animas City was officially incorporated.¹⁵

Animas City Schools

The first Animas City School was a one-room log cabin located north of present-day 32nd Street and Main Avenue.¹⁶ It opened in 1876.¹⁷ About two years later, a two-story frame school replaced the original log cabin school.¹⁸ By 1880, Animas City had outgrown the frame schoolhouse.¹⁹ A new three-room brick school was built to accommodate the growing number of students. From 1880 until 1905, this third school housed ten grades of Animas City students.²⁰ This building was located on the southeast corner of present-day West 2nd Avenue at 31st Street. According to a history of Animas City, at the time of its construction this new brick school was considered the best school in southwest Colorado.²¹

By 1904, the students had again outgrown the school. Plans were made to construct an even larger school. The final version of the Animas City School was completed in 1905, and the first school year was 1905-1906.²² Unlike the previous schools, the new stone school had three stories and large classrooms with many large windows. The new school had five classrooms, a principal and nurse's office, and the largest classroom also served as an auditorium. In the beginning, the Animas City School housed first through tenth grade. A 1920 newspaper article bragged that the stone building embodied "the latest features of architecture and modern devices that go to make an ideal school."²³ A bell hung in the cupola, and it tolled at the start and end of classes every day. The Animas City School was not just meaningful to the students it served, but also to the community surrounding it.

When it opened in 1905, the Animas City School became the largest public building in town.²⁴ On weekends and after hours, the school held many other community functions due to its large

¹³ Ibid, 10.

¹⁴ Ibid, 10.

¹⁵ Ibid, 4.

¹⁶ Ibid, 3.

¹⁷ This first school building burned in the early twentieth century and was subsequently demolished.

¹⁸ Andy Chitwood, "Animas City As I Remember, 1876 to 1880," in *Pioneers of the San Juan Country, Volume II*, Sarah Platt Decker Chapter, DAR (Colorado Springs, CO: Out West Printing and Stationery Co., 1946), 100. This article is essentially a key to a rough-drawn map in the photo section of this volume.

¹⁹ "Animas City Schools Assist in Civic and Education Advancement of Community of Which it is Portion," *Durango Democrat*, June 8, 1920, accessed January 31, 2017.

²⁰ "Animas City Schools Assist"

²¹ Luzar, *The Animas City Story*, 17. This building was condemned in the mid-twentieth century after being used as a private residence.

²² Robert McDaniel, "Old Schoolhouse Restored as Museum," *Historic Durango: Chronicling Our Past*, Vol. IX, May 11, 2003, 5-6.

²³ "Animas City Schools Assist."

²⁴ Ibid.

Animas City School

Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado

County and State

size. Animas City had a very active Parent Teacher Association (PTA).²⁵ They sponsored many events at the school. Some of these get-togethers included box socials, dances, midnight suppers, card parties, and the eighth-grade graduation banquet.²⁶ A *Durango Herald-Democrat* newspaper announcement from March 13, 1931, informed the public of a concert sponsored by the PTA at the Animas City School for the following evening.²⁷ The program included piano, violin, readings, singing, recitations, and pantomime.²⁸ Public holiday parties were also part of the school's event calendar every year.

The Animas City town hall was a one-room building a few blocks away from the school. Due to its size, the only public events held at the town hall were federal elections. Large government meetings took place at the Animas City School. A newspaper announcement in the May 4, 1937, edition of the *Durango Herald-Democrat* detailed the outcome of the school board election held in the school.²⁹ Voters re-elected Ben Caughey as board secretary with a vote of 118 to 49.³⁰ A vote of 114 to 59 meant the election of Mr. Erwin John as the new school board president.³¹

The large school was not just an important meeting place for the community of Animas City. It was also a point of civic pride. On June 8, 1920, a sizable article ran in the *Durango Democrat*.³² After the school fire in 1919 and the influenza epidemic of 1918-19, the public was worried about the future of their school building.³³ The Animas City officials also wanted to consolidate the "city" school district with the more rural school districts of the Waterfall, Trimble, and Hermosa schools.³⁴ This consolidation was meant to address any weaknesses among all of the districts and pool their resources.³⁵ Animas City citizens thought their school would lose its independence due to events that were no fault of its own. The *Durango Democrat* article was meant to assure the public that the school was still structurally sound after the fire and that the proposed consolidation of the urban and rural school districts would guarantee the vitality of their beloved Animas City School into the future.

Animas City Annexed

In 1879, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad began acquiring property a couple of miles south of Animas City to develop its own town, Durango.³⁶ The D&RG's San Juan Extension was built west from Alamosa, Colorado to Silverton, Colorado in 1880-82 and connected Durango and the

²⁵ Carolyn Bowra, "One Hundred and Ten Years of Community Service: The Animas City School House." *History La Plata: La Plata County History A-Z*, May 4, 2014, accessed February 5, 2017.

www.animasmuseum.org/hlp2014.pdf.

²⁶ Bowra, "Community Service."

²⁷ "Animas P.T.A. To Give Entertainment," *Durango Herald-Democrat*, March 13, 1931, accessed March 2, 2017.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ "Animas City Holds Election," *Durango Herald-Democrat*, May 4, 1937, accessed March 2, 2017.

³⁰ "Animas City Holds Election"

³¹ Ibid.

³² "Animas City Schools Assist."

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Mary C. Ayres, "The Founding of Durango, Colorado," *The Colorado Magazine Vol. VII, No. 3*(May, 1930), 85.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

lower Animas Valley farms to the high ore mines around Silverton. Important keys to the success of the railroad's plan included the development of the San Juan and New York Mining and Smelting Company smelter on land across the Animas River from the railroad depot and the development of abundant nearby coal resources, which provided fuel for the railroad, smelter, businesses and homes. Durango boomed from the start, becoming the dominant town in southwest Colorado and one of the D&RG's great success stories. The creation of Durango was the beginning of the end for Animas City. Animas City was essentially a farming town that served farms and ranches in the Animas River Valley that provided food for miners in the high San Juans. Without the railroad or Durango's industrial strength and economic vitality, Animas City was relegated to suburb status. For sixty-eight years, from 1880 to 1948, Durango and Animas City existed side-by-side, but separate from one another.³⁷ In the late-1800s and early-1900s, the two cities had independent fire departments, school districts, and other utility services.³⁸ In August 1938, a meeting was held at the Animas City School to discuss the possible consolidation of Animas City School with the Durango school district.³⁹ The motion was approved. In 1939, Animas City School District #1 merged with Durango School District #9.⁴⁰ The Animas City School originally offered classes for first through tenth grade, but stopped offering high school classes once the two school districts merged.

In 1948, Durango annexed Animas City.⁴¹ By this time, the Animas City School served only as an elementary school and survived for an additional twenty years. The Animas School ended its last school year in 1967.⁴² From 1967 until 1978, the old school building hosted Head Start classes for a time and became the headquarters for School District 9-R's maintenance shop.⁴³ In 1980, the La Plata County Historical Society purchased the school building after having leased it for three years.⁴⁴ The Historical Society cleaned up and began repairing the aging building to transform it into the Animas Museum. Today, among many other activities, the museum continues to host school reunions every fall for the alumni of the Animas City School.⁴⁵

Construction of Animas City School

In 1904, School District #1 solicited bids for the construction of a new school building. The project caused much excitement in the community and was closely followed in the Durango newspapers. On July 31, 1904, an announcement in the *Durango Democrat* informed the public that the school board opened bids for the construction of the new school.⁴⁶ This announcement showed the names of some of the men that put in bids, the bid amounts, and the work they intended to do or the supplies they would provide. Al Newnham put in a proposal to do

³⁷ Luzar, *The Animas City Story*, 19.

³⁸ *Ibid*, 9.

³⁹ *Ibid*, 36.

⁴⁰ Bowra, "Community Service."

⁴¹ Luzar, *The Animas City Story*, 41.

⁴² McDaniel, "Old Schoolhouse," 5.

⁴³ *Ibid*.

⁴⁴ *Ibid*.

⁴⁵ *Ibid*.

⁴⁶ "Bids Were Opened," *Daily Democrat*, August 1, 1904, accessed March 2, 2017.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

plastering for \$589.⁴⁷ Pete McClellan put in another bid to do stonework for \$2,200.⁴⁸ Citizen Degenhardt would do the entire job for \$6,575.⁴⁹ All of these bids and more were to be analyzed by the architect, Julius D. Mentzel.⁵⁰ At the time this announcement came out, the school board did not award a contract.

Only two days later, on August 2, 1904, a smaller notice appeared in a local paper.⁵¹ This statement let the public know that the Animas City school board rejected all the previous construction proposals.⁵² The board then asked for new bids on each of the specific construction jobs needed for the new school.⁵³ They did not want bids for the whole job or ones that failed to include specific work details. Bids for the construction were reopened.⁵⁴ On August 6, 1904, another short announcement appeared in the *Daily Democrat*.⁵⁵ This announcement was only two sentences long. The school board had awarded the Animas City School contract to Daniel J. McGillis.⁵⁶ McGillis' winning bid was for a total of \$5,800.⁵⁷ McGillis was to construct the new building out of stone, not brick.⁵⁸ The reason for this change is unknown, but the school was built from locally sourced sandstone. The stone was probably quarried just north of Animas City where an accessible outcrop of Entrada sandstone was located.

A little more than a year later, on September 8, 1905, an article on the Animas City School appeared in the *Durango Weekly* newspaper.⁵⁹ In this article, the tone toward the school construction project had changed dramatically. The Animas City school board was in arbitration against the builders of the school.⁶⁰ The board refused to pay the last \$900 of the construction contract because of what they called "damages."⁶¹ These damages in the new building included uneven windows that were wider at the bottom than at the top.⁶² Additional issues were also implied but not mentioned specifically. The conflict between the builders and the school board was over these problems with the construction and the completion standards in the contract that would warrant the last payment. Despite the issue not being settled by September 8, 1905, the school still took possession of the new building on September 1, 1905.⁶³ Classes in the new Animas City School began in September 1905 while the issues regarding its construction

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ "Bids Were Opened."

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ "Animas City School Board Rejects Bids," *Daily Democrat*, August 2, 1904, accessed March 2, 2017.

⁵² "Animas City School Board Rejects Bids."

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ "Animas City School House Contract Awarded," *Daily Democrat*, August 6, 1904, accessed March 2, 2017.

⁵⁶ "Animas City School House Contract Awarded."

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ "Animas School," *The Durango Weekly*, September 8, 1905, accessed March 2, 2017.

⁶⁰ "Animas School."

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

continued.⁶⁴ The 1905-06 school year was the first year of classes in the new sandstone building.⁶⁵ The students and community of Animas City were very excited about their new public building despite the issues with its construction.

The Evolution of Schoolhouses in America

At the beginning of the 1800s, public schools became more important to the United States government.⁶⁶ As some schooling became mandatory for all Americans, schoolhouse design became a topic of interest among educators and concerned citizens. At this time, it was believed that school design was connected to students' proficiency, health, life expectancy, and their ability to love their studies.⁶⁷ It was no longer acceptable for students to be taught in vacant rooms in various buildings. The education of America's students now required the construction of permanent and prominent buildings of their own.⁶⁸ By the 1850s, school districts in the eastern United States started using specific architectural designs to construct their schools.⁶⁹ These new buildings were built to be orderly and instantly recognizable.

By 1847, another innovation in school design began with the opening of the Quincy Grammar School.⁷⁰ Quincy was the first school to divide students into different classrooms based on grade level.⁷¹ Each grade now had a separate classroom, instead of having all students together in one large room. Urban areas quickly developed schoolhouses based on the Quincy design.⁷² Rural schools responded much more slowly. Animas City did not start the change to the Quincy Plan until the opening of the Animas City School in 1905. Between 1912 and 1928, most schools around the country also adopted the Gary Plan.⁷³ In addition to traditional lessons in reading, writing, and arithmetic, this new plan also called for schoolhouse designs to include gymnasiums, playgrounds, and at least one auditorium.⁷⁴ The Gary Plan was also called the work-study-play plan. While the Animas City School opened before the Gary Plan, it still included a small auditorium and extensive grounds for students to play. With the addition of new, enlarged facilities, many schools took on an even greater role within the community. School auditoriums were not only built for use by students, but also for public meetings and productions.⁷⁵ During the Progressive Era, scholars believed schoolhouses to "be the focal point of community life."⁷⁶ School design continued to be vital to community development because attractive, high-achieving schools became neighborhood assets.⁷⁷ Built in the midst of school

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ William W. Cutler, "Cathedral of Culture: The Schoolhouse in American Educational Thought and Practice since 1820," *History of Education Quarterly* 29 (Spring 1989): 4.

⁶⁷ Cutler, "Cathedral of Culture," 4.

⁶⁸ Ibid, 2.

⁶⁹ Ibid, 3.

⁷⁰ Ibid, 5.

⁷¹ Ibid, 5.

⁷² Ibid, 6.

⁷³ Ibid, 11.

⁷⁴ Ibid, 11.

⁷⁵ Ibid, 27.

⁷⁶ Ibid, 27.

⁷⁷ Ibid, 25.

Animas City School

Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado

County and State

reform, the Animas City School incorporated many of the new elements despite being in a small school district with a meager budget.

There are two types of rural schoolhouse design: vernacular and architect-designed.⁷⁸ The Animas City School follows the rules of an architect-designed building. Architect designed buildings usually fit popular construction styles of specific eras, such as the Italianate Style of the Animas City School.⁷⁹

Architect and Builder: Mentzel & McGillis

Julius D. Mentzel was born in Germany in 1867. He emigrated to the United States around 1880 at roughly twelve years old with his parents, Charles and Augusta, and his brother, Fred. In the 1900 census he lived on East 2nd Avenue in Durango, Colorado with his parents. At this time, Mentzel was listed as an unmarried architect. In 1903, Mentzel was listed in the Durango-Silverton City Directory as living at 1424 East 3rd Avenue in Durango.⁸⁰ It was at this time that he probably began work on the plans for the Animas City School. There is no other mention of buildings he designed. By the time of the 1911 city directory (the next one available), he is no longer listed.

Contractor Daniel J. McGillis was born in 1857 in Glengary, Canada.⁸¹ He emigrated to the San Luis Valley around 1879-1880. He was a supervisor of buildings and bridges for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad.⁸² In the mid-1880s he built the railroad depot in Alamosa, Colorado.⁸³ This depot burned down in 1907. McGillis also ran a contracting business in Durango for 15 years, but the exact dates are not known. He is listed in the 1903 Durango-Silverton City Directory as being a contractor and carpenter with a residence at 1752 Main Avenue.⁸⁴ The 1892 Durango City Directory has him residing between Park Avenue and Delaware St,⁸⁵ a location near to the 1903 location. McGillis' contracting business was awarded the Animas City School contract on August 6, 1904, with a winning bid of \$5,800 for the project.⁸⁶ Classes began at the new school in September 1905. Daniel J. McGillis died of pneumonia in January 1911 in the San Luis Valley.⁸⁷ He is buried at Greenmount Cemetery in Durango, Colorado.

1919 Animas City School Fire

As a center of public activity, it was not uncommon for the Animas City School to host parties and events. The 1919 Halloween party was an ordinary public event on the school's social

⁷⁸ Fred E. H. Schroeder, "Schoolhouse Reading: What You Can Learn from Your Rural School," *American Association for State and Local History* 36 (April 1981): 15.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, 16.

⁸⁰ Killam and Kelley, *Durango-Silverton 1903*.

⁸¹ "Death of D.J. McGillis," *Denver Catholic Register*, January 5, 1911, accessed September 18, 2018

⁸² "Death of D.J. McGillis"

⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴ Killam and Kelley, *Durango-Silverton 1903*.

⁸⁵ Bensel, *The Bensel Directory Company's Durango City Directory for the Year 1892* (1892).

⁸⁶ "Animas City School House Contract Awarded."

⁸⁷ "Death of D.J. McGillis"

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

calendar.⁸⁸ The decorations were removed from the walls and and burned in one of the school's wood stoves. Sparks from the furnace lodged in the roof's wood shingles, starting the fire that nearly destroyed the building. By the time the fire was discovered, the blaze had grown too large for the Animas City Volunteer Fire Department.⁸⁹ The larger Durango Fire Department had to be called in to help.⁹⁰ Before it was extinguished, the fire had destroyed the entire roof and much of the second floor; the lower floors were water damaged.⁹¹ Due to the fire, classes had to be held in other buildings in town, including the town hall and the Presbyterian Church.⁹² The school board hurried to start repairs to the prized school. With a winning bid of \$4,375, Mr. L. Connors was hired to make the necessary repairs.⁹³ Luckily, the stone walls and the foundation were sturdy enough to survive the fire.⁹⁴ The original bell from the cupola had crashed in to the second floor and created additional damage. While the sandstone walls remained intact, many repairs to the school's interior had to be made.⁹⁵ For economic and expediency reasons the hip roof was not reconstructed.⁹⁶ Instead, a flat roof replaced the original. This flat roof would eventually develop structural issues by the early 1980s. At the time the flat roof was constructed, the goal was to get the school operational again as soon as possible. Classes were back in session by early 1920.⁹⁷

The Animas Museum

From 1976 to 1979, the La Plata County Historical Society leased the old school building from Durango 9-R School District with hopes of turning the building into a museum. In 1980, the Historical Society purchased the Animas City School for ten dollars from the 9-R district.⁹⁸ The historic building had started to deteriorate, and the years of near abandonment had allowed vandals to smash most of the exterior windows. The Historical Society raised funds, applied for grants, and engaged volunteers to help restore the building and bring it back into working order. Windows and doors were restored, interior repairs and repainting were accomplished, and new concrete steps, walks, landings and driveways were installed. During all this work, the Historical Society adhered to the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, preserving as many original elements of the school as possible. Many of the people involved in the restoration work were alumni of the school or long-time residents of Animas City. These people remembered many of the original interior and exterior elements of the school and were critical in bringing it back into working order.

⁸⁸ "Animas City School Burns," *Weekly Herald*, November 6, 1919, accessed March 2, 2017.

⁸⁹ "Animas City School Burns."

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Rodebugh, "Animas City Students Celebrate."

⁹³ "Contract is Let for School Repairs," *Durango Evening Herald*, November 25, 1919, accessed March 2, 2017.

⁹⁴ "Contract is Let for School Repairs."

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Robert McDaniel, "A New Roof, A New Future," *Historic Durango: Chronicling Our Past*, Vol. IX, May 11, 2003, 6.

⁹⁷ Rodebugh, "Animas City Students Celebrate."

⁹⁸ Ibid.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

When the La Plata County Historical Society purchased the Animas City School in 1980, they wished to save the building from the recent trend of demolition sweeping the area.⁹⁹ Other historic buildings demolished between the early-1960s and early-1990s included Durango's City Hall, the iconic La Plata County Courthouse and the La Plata County Fair Grounds grandstands and stalls. The actions of the Historical Society saved the Animas City School. The Animas Museum opened its doors in 1983, but the restoration and rehabilitation efforts lasted into the 2000s through a series of SHF grants as described in Section 7 above.¹⁰⁰

The museum is the face of the La Plata County Historical Society, and it operates with the mission to keep La Plata County history alive for current and future generations. The Animas Museum has preserved the interior and exterior architecture of the school. It has also been able to maintain the educational and community spirit of the original schoolhouse. Due to its historic significance, the Animas City School was added to the Durango Register of Historic Places in 1992.¹⁰¹

⁹⁹ Rodebugh, "Animas City Students Celebrate."

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Bowra, "Community Service."

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- “Animas City Holds Election.” *Durango Herald-Democrat*, May 4, 1937.
- “Animas City School Board Rejects Bids.” *Daily Democrat*, August 2, 1904.
- “Animas City School Burns.” *Weekly Herald*, November 6, 1919.
- “Animas City Schools Assist in Civic and Education Advancement of Community of Which it is Portion.” *Durango Democrat*, June 8, 1920.
- “Animas City School House Contract Awarded.” *Daily Democrat*, August 6, 1904.
- “Animas P.T.A. To Give Entertainment.” *Durango Herald-Democrat*, March 13, 1931.
- “Animas School.” *The Durango Weekly*, September 8, 1905.
- Ayres, Mary C. “The Founding of Durango, Colorado.” In *The Colorado Magazine*, Volume VII, No. 3 (May 1930): 85-94.
- Baker, Arthur. *The Durango News San Juan Basin Directory 1932-1934*. Durango, CO: The Durango News, Inc., 1932.
- The Bensel Directory Company’s Durango City Directory for the Year 1892*. Durango, CO: The Bensel Directory Company, 1892.
- “Bids Were Opened.” *Durango Democrat*, July 31, 1904.
- Bowra, Carolyn. “One Hundred and Ten Years of Community Service: The Animas City School House.” *History La Plata: La Plata County History A-Z*, May 4, 2014. Durango, Colorado: La Plata County Historical Society (LPCHS). Online at www.animasmuseum.org/hlp2014.pdf. Accessed February 5, 2017.
- “Contract is Let for School Repairs.” *Durango Evening Herald*, November 25, 1919.
- Chitwood, Andy. “Animas City As I Remember, 1876 to 1880.” In *Pioneers of the San Juan Country, Volume II*, edited by Sarah Platt Decker Chapter, DAR, 100. Colorado Springs: Out West Printing and Stationery Co., 1946
- “Death of D.J. McGillis.” *Denver Catholic Register*, January 5, 1911.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

Ives, James R. *the Tenth Annual Volume Colorado State Business Directory, Colorado Mining Directory, Colorado Live Stock Directory Departments*. Denver, CO: James R. Ives and Co., 1884.

Killam, G.A. and John C. Kelly. *Durango-Silverton City Directory 1903*. Durango, CO. Durango Herald Print, 1902.

Luzar, Retha Beebe. *The Animas City Story: A Forerunner of Durango, Colorado*. Durango Colorado: self-published, 1978.

McDaniel, Robert. "Durango's First Settler." In *The RGS Story Volume XI: Durango and the Perins Peak Branch*, edited by Russ Collman, 8-10. Denver: Sundance Publications Limited, 2005.

_____. "Old Schoolhouse Restored as Museum" and "A New Roof, A New Future." *Historic Durango: Chronicling Our Past*, Vol. IX (May 11, 2003): 5-6.

McKinney, F.A. *F.A. McKinney's Durango and Durango District Directory 1911-1912*. Denver, CO: F.A. McKinney, Publisher, 1911.

_____. *F.A. McKinney's San Juan Basin Directory 1915*. La Junta, CO: F.A. McKinney, Publisher, 1914.

Nossaman, Allen. *Many More Mountains Volume 1: Silverton's Roots*. Denver: Sundance Publications Limited, 1989.

_____. *Many More Mountains Volume 3: Rails into Silverton*. Denver: Sundance Publications Limited, 1998.

"Old Jimmy Dead." *Durango Democrat*, 1903.

Ottesen, Kristen. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, "Cortez High School." 2016. On file with History Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, Colorado.

Rodebaugh, Dale. "Animas City Students Celebrate." *Durango Herald*, September 12, 2004.

Schroeder, Fred E.H. "Schoolhouse Reading: What You Can Learn from Your Rural School." *American Association for State and Local History* 36 (April 1981): 15-16.

Steffensen-Bruce, Ingrid A. *Marble Palaces, Temples of Art: Art Museums, Architecture, and American Culture, 1890-1930*. Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell University Press, 1998.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

Tyler, Norman. "Architectural Styles." in *Historic Preservation*, 108-138. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, n.d.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Animas Museum/ La Plata County Historical Society, Durango,
CO

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 5LP.351

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.781

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.175726 Longitude: 107.522394
2. Latitude: Longitude:

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Animas City School is bordered by West 2nd Avenue to the east, 31st Street to the north, West 3rd Avenue to the west, and private property to the south. The address is 3065 W. 2nd Avenue. The area is described as Block 33 Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 in the City of Durango, originally Lots 76, 74, 72, 70, 68, 66, 64, and 62 of Mountain Street in the Town of Animas City. [see Figure 1]

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nomination boundary matches the historic extent of the school property and has been consistent since 1904.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Amber V.J. Lark, Collections Manager and Robert McDaniel (for property owner)

organization: Animas Museum/ La Plata County Historical Society

street & number: 3065 W. 2nd Avenue

city or town: Durango state: Colorado zip code: 81301

e-mail amberlark@animasmuseum.org

telephone: (970) 259-2402

date: Sept. 27, 2018

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log (current color photos)

Name of Property: Animas City School/ Animas Museum

City or Vicinity: Durango

County: La Plata State: Colorado

Photographer: A. Lark

Date Photographed: September 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. East side facade/entrance. Camera looking west.
2. Animas City School south facade. Camera looking north.
3. Animas City School west facade. Camera looking east.
4. Animas City School north facade. Camera looking southeast.
5. Animas Museum attic collections area installed in 2008. Camera looking west.
6. Stairs to the newly created collections area. Camera looking southwest.
7. Recreated classroom exhibit on the Main Floor. Camera looking west.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State

8. Peterson House located on the grounds of the Animas Museum/ Animas City School. Camera looking southwest.
9. Vulcan Foundry Office located on the Animas Museum grounds. Camera looking west.
10. The Vulcan Foundry Office located on the Animas Museum grounds. Camera looking northwest.
11. The Joy Cabin located on the Animas Museum grounds. Camera looking south.
12. The Joy Cabin on the Animas Museum grounds. Camera looking southeast.

Historic Photo Log

1. The Animas City School between 1905 and 1919 before the 1919 fire. Camera looking northwest.
2. The Animas City School between 1905 and 1919 before the 1919 fire. Camera looking west.
3. The Animas City School just after the 1919 fire. Camera looking north.
4. The Animas City School just after the 1919 fire. Camera looking northeast.
5. The Animas City School in the 1920s with the flat roof. Camera looking northwest.
6. The Animas City School/ Animas Museum in 1987 with the flat roof. Camera looking west.
7. The Animas City School/ Animas Museum in 2004 with the flat roof. Camera looking west.
8. The Animas City School/ Animas Museum in 2006 during the reconstruction of the hip-style roof. Camera looking east.
9. The Animas City School/ Animas Museum in 2008 inside the reconstructed roof/new Collections area. Camera looking northwest.

List of Figures

- Figure 1: Animas City School/ Animas Museum floor plan, Main Floor
Figure 2: Animas City School/ Animas Museum floor plan, Second Floor
Figure 3: Animas City School/ Animas Museum floor plan, Basement Level
Figure 4: Animas City School/ Animas Museum floor plan, Attic/ Collections Area

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State



HP1. The Animas City School between 1905 and 1919 before the 1919 fire. Camera looking northwest.



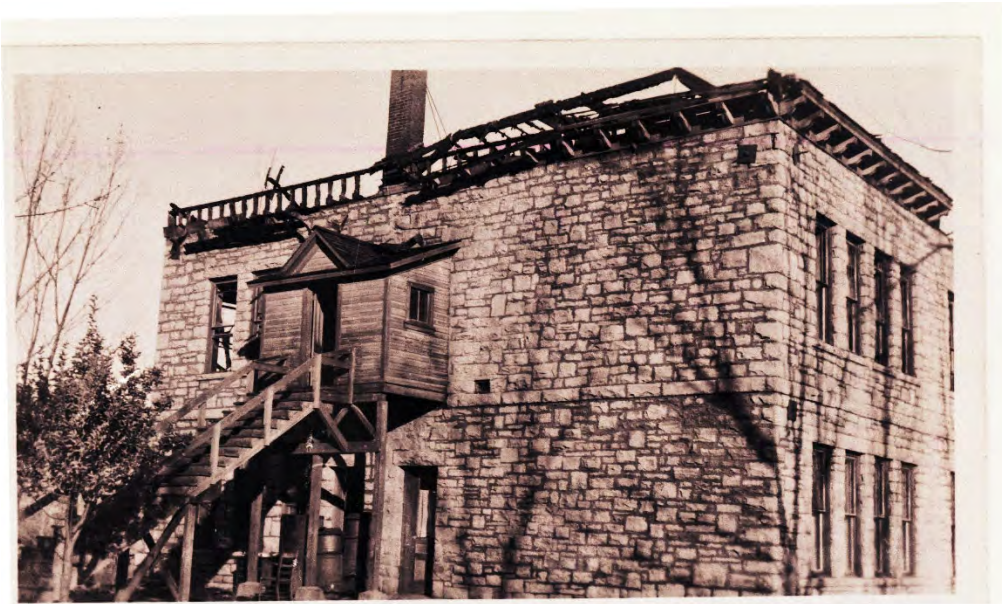
HP2. The Animas City School between 1905 and 1919 before the 1919 fire. Camera looking west.

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State



HP3. The Animas City School just after the 1919 fire. Camera looking north



HP4. The Animas City School just after the 1919 fire. Camera looking northeast

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State



HP5. The Animas City School in the 1920s with the flat roof. Camera looking northwest



HP6. The Animas City School/ Animas Museum in 1987 with the flat roof. Camera looking west

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State



HP7. The Animas City School/ Animas Museum in 2004 with the flat roof. Camera looking west



HP8. 8. The Animas City School/ Animas Museum in 2006 during the reconstruction of the hip-style roof. Camera looking east

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State



HP9. The Animas City School/ Animas Museum in 2008 inside the reconstructed roof/new Collections area. Camera looking northwest.

Animas City School
 Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
 County and State

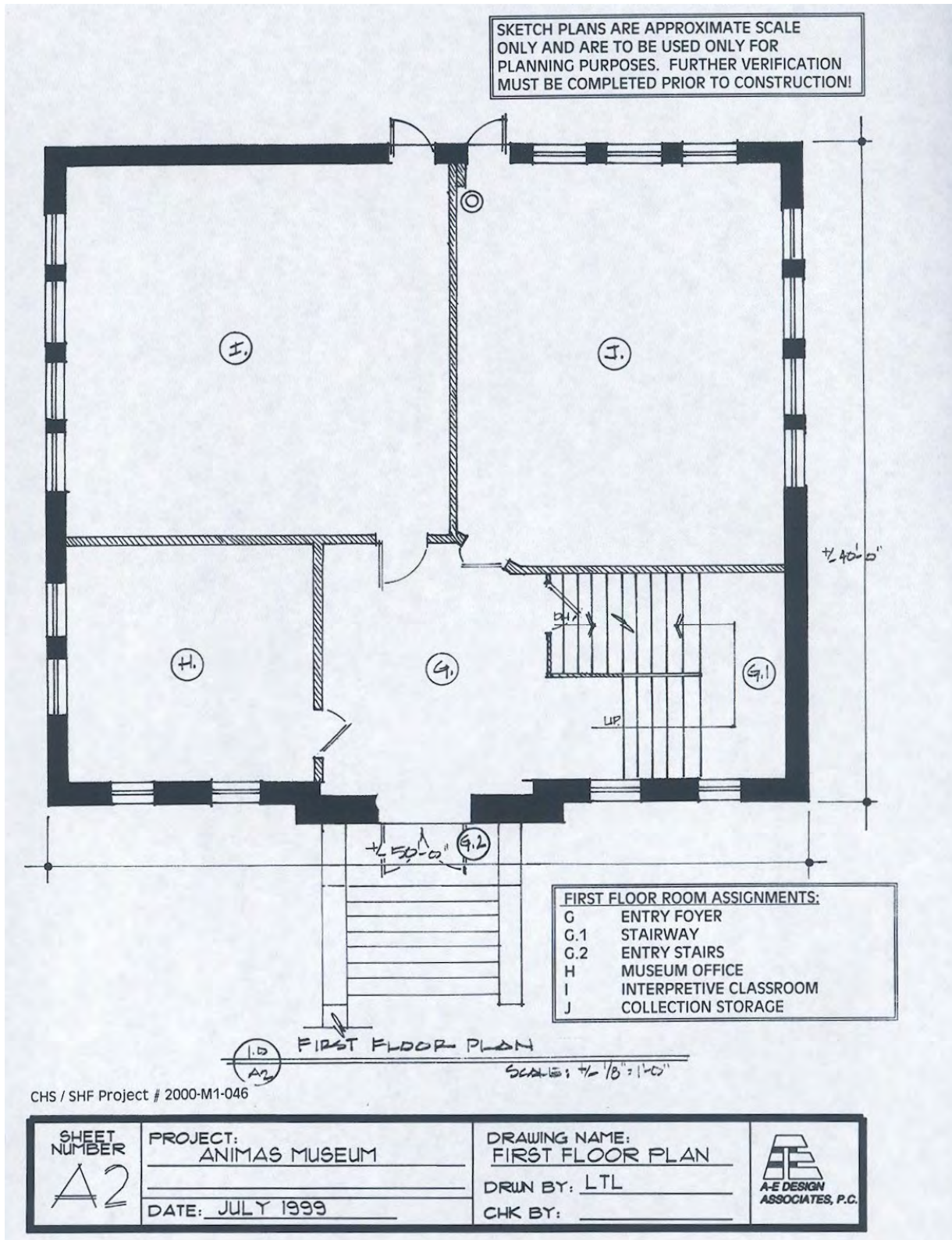


Figure 1: Animas City School floor plan, Main Floor

Animas City School
 Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
 County and State

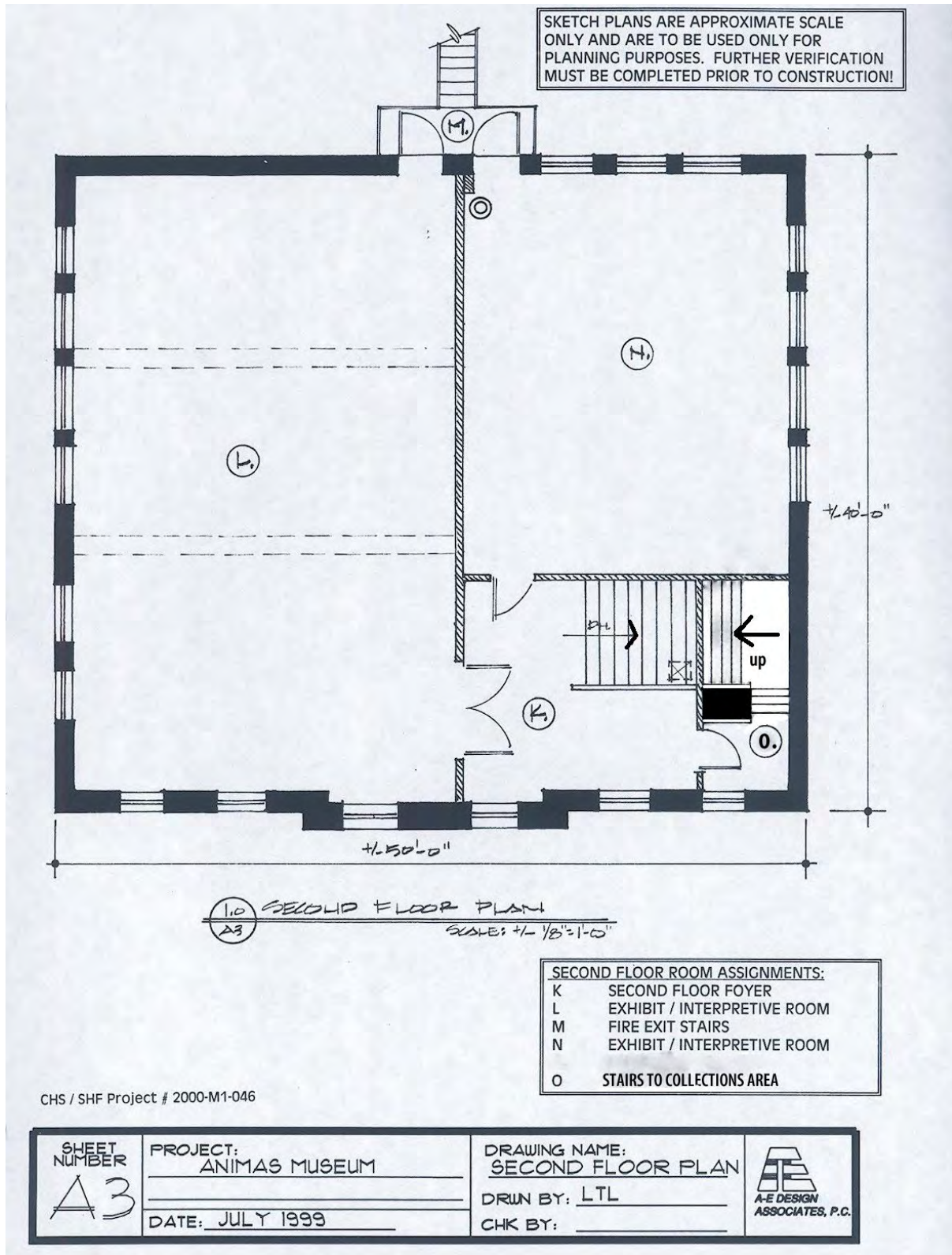


Figure 2: Animas City School floor plan, Second Floor

Animas City School
 Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
 County and State

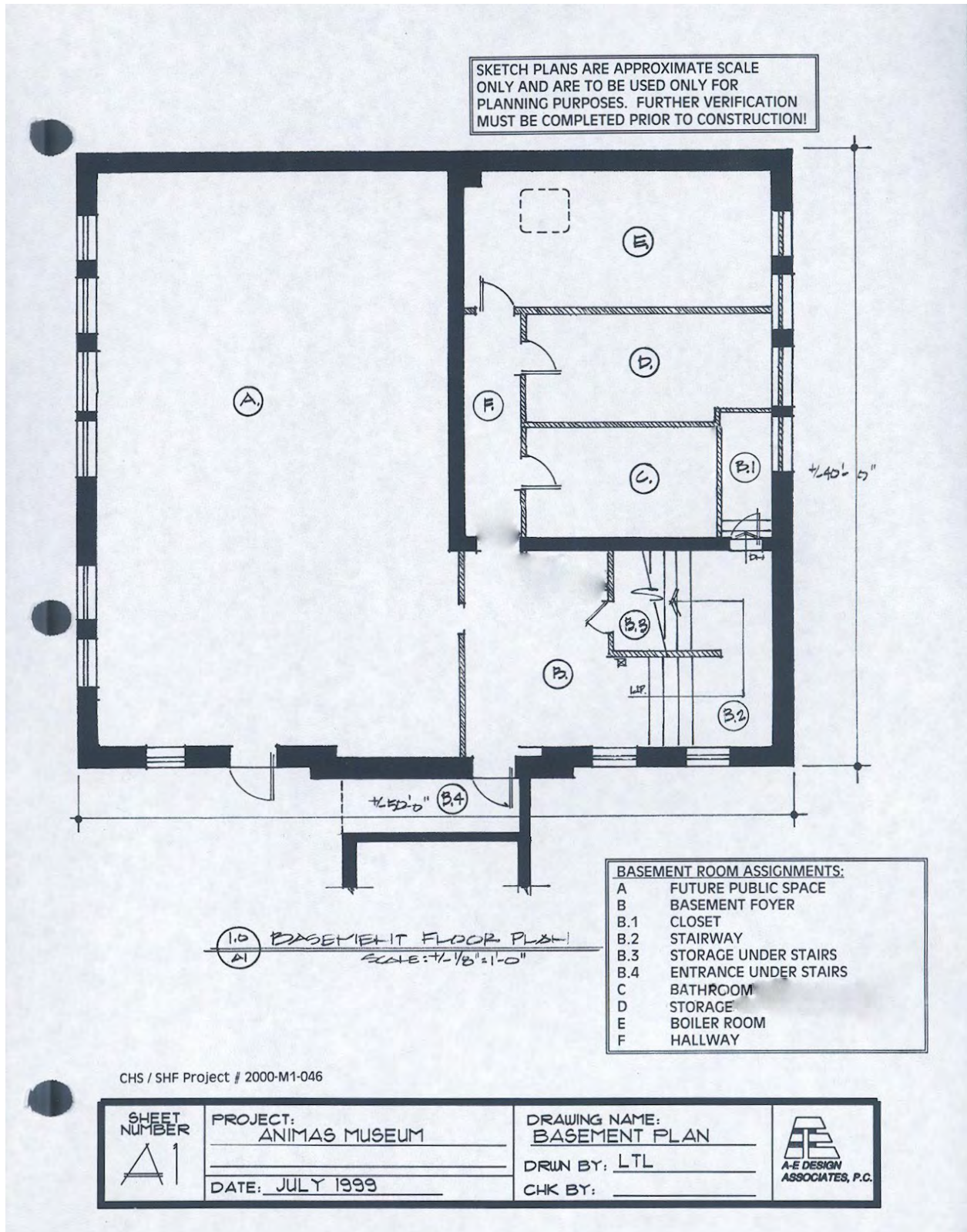
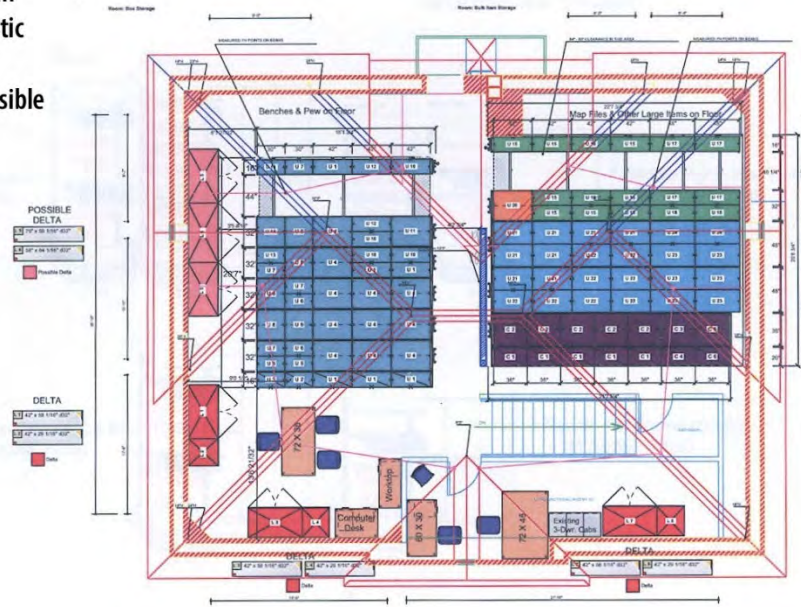


Figure 3: Animas City School floor plan, Basement Level

Animas City School
 Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
 County and State

Collections area in newly created attic space.
 Roof lines also visible




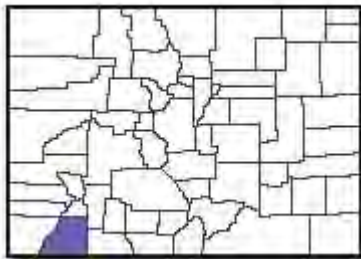
| | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
|  <p>800.244.1452 www.improvegroup.biz</p> | Project Name: La Plata Historical Society - Animas Museum | Saved Date: 09/26/2007 | Project No: 1553C | |
| | Copyright © 2007 iGimprove group. This material is proprietary and confidential, and the disclosure reproduction by photography, film, blueprint or otherwise or incorporation into any information retrieval system without first receiving written approval from iGimprove group is expressly prohibited by law. | Printed Date: 05/12/2008 | Revision: 4 | Total Actual LFI: 20560 LF |
| | Scale: 3/32" = 1' | Rep: Tim Packer | Drwn by: JA | Sheet No: 7 of 7 |
| | File: P:\Configura Files\Configura Drawing\Configura Drw. 00001-20000\15530 - La Plata-Animas Museum\Configura Files\15530-Rev4 (MA | | | |

Figure 4: Animas City School floor plan, Attic/Collection Area

Animas City School
Name of Property

La Plata County, Colorado
County and State



State Perspective: Durango, La Plata County

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC







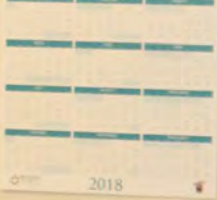





SCHOOLS
THE HEART OF THE



AWARD
DISORDER





PLEASE
DO NOT ENGAGE
DEADBOLT
DURING
BUSINESS HOURS



EXIT













UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 3/22/2019 Date of Pending List: 4/5/2019 Date of 16th Day: 4/22/2019 Date of 45th Day: 5/6/2019 Date of Weekly List: 4/26/2019

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 4/23/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1200 Broadway, Denver CO 80203

COLORADO CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION REVIEW REPORT FORM

Property Name: Animas City School

Address: 3065 W 2nd Ave, Durango, CO

Certified Local Government: City of Durango

Date of public meeting at which nomination was reviewed: 12/18/18

Eligibility Criteria: (Check applicable boxes)

Criterion A (checked) Criterion B

Criterion C (checked) Criterion D

Please check the boxes below appropriate to the nomination review:

Commission/Board

- Commission/Board recommendation options: meets criteria, fails to meet criteria, or no recommendation.

Chief Elected Official

- Chief Elected Official recommendation options: meets criteria, fails to meet criteria, or no recommendation.

Attach an additional sheet to make any further comments.

Certify this report with both signatures below

CLG Commission/Board Chair or Representative

Print name:

Signature:

(Date)

Chief Elected Official or Designee

Print name: Sweetie Marbury

Signature: Sweetie Marbury Mayor

Date: Jan. 8-2019



OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORIC PRESERVATION
1200 Broadway, Denver CO 80203

**COLORADO CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION REVIEW REPORT FORM**

Property Name: Animas City School

Address: 3065 W. 2nd Ave, Durango, CO

Certified Local Government: City of Durango

Date of public meeting at which nomination was reviewed: HPB-11/28/18; CC-12/18/18

Eligibility Criteria: (Check applicable boxes)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criterion A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criterion C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criterion B | <input type="checkbox"/> Criterion D |

Please check the boxes below appropriate to the nomination review:

Commission/Board

- The commission/board recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.
- The commission/board recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.
- The commission/board chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

Chief Elected Official

- The chief elected official recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.
- The chief elected official recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.
- The chief elected official chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

Attach an additional sheet to make any further comments.

Certify this report with both signatures below

CLG Commission/Board Chair or Representative

Print name: DAVID A. SINDLER

Signature: David A. Sinder Chair Board HPB 1/10/19
(Date)

Chief Elected Official or Designee

Print name: _____

Signature: _____
(Date)



March 21, 2019

Christopher Hetzel
Acting Chief, NR and NHL Programs
National Park Service
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Hetzel:

We are pleased to submit for your review the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Animas City School (5LP.351) in La Plata County, Colorado.

The Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the nomination at its meeting on January 18, 2019. The board voted unanimously to recommend to the State Historic Preservation Officer that the property met the criteria for listing in the National Register.

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Animas City School to the National Register of Historic Places.

We look forward to the formal listing of this property. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 303-866-4683 or by email at erika.warzel@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Erika Warzel
National and State Register Coordinator
(303) 866-4683
erika.warzel@state.co.us

Enclosures
CDs (2)
Signature Page