

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000980

Date Listed: 8/3/89

Ward School
Property Name

Boulder
County

CO
State

Metal Mining and Tourist Era Resources of Boulder County MPS
Multiple Name

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

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

8/3/89
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Item #8: Significance:

The period of significance is 1898.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

980

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
NPS/CHS Word Processor Format
(Approved 03/88)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN 28 1989

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Ward School

other names/site number: Ward Townhall and Post Office #5BL.803.2

2. Location

street & number: 66 Columbia

(NA) not for publication

city, town: Ward

(X) vicinity Boulder

state: Colorado code: CO county: Boulder

code:013 zip code:80481

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
() private	(x) building(s)		
(x) public-local	() district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
() public-State	() site		<u> </u> sites
() public-Federal	() structure		<u> </u> structures
	() object		<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

No. of contributing resources
previously listed in the
National Register 0

Metal Mining and Tourist Era Resources of
Boulder County

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.
() See continuation sheet.

Barbara Sudler

6-15-89

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, 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.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

() entered in the National Register.
() See continuation sheet

Boh Poland

8/3/89

() determined eligible for the National Register. () See continuation sheet

() determined not eligible for the National Register.

() removed from the National Register.

() other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Education / School

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Government / City Hall; Post Office
Education / Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular Wood Frame

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

foundations Stone

walls Wood

roof Metal

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The 1898 Ward School is a turn-of-the-century schoolhouse in the remote mountain community of Ward, Colorado, 18 miles west of Boulder. The school is located on the steep slopes of the town's west side, prominently situated on an overlook above the main thoroughfare of Ward. The hillside and the surrounding area are heavily wooded. This vegetation and the unpaved roads give the schoolhouse a distinct rural character. The setting is unaltered and the building is one of the best preserved historic structures in Ward, having survived both the fire in 1900 and the mid 20th century neglect that has claimed most of the town's early buildings. Although it is no longer used as a school, it remains in public use as the Ward Town Hall, Library, and Post Office. The building and setting remain very much the same as they were originally.

The Ward School is a substantial, one story building. It is one of the larger historic schoolhouses in western Boulder County. It is laid out in a basic rectangular plan with a small projecting vestibule at the entrance. The only alteration to the building's original design is a shed roof addition, constructed on the west side of the building sometime after 1900. The main roof is gabled and covered with corrugated metal. The ridge of the main gable runs north and south and intersects with a cross gable at the north end to create a gabled end for the building's entrance. The roof a medium pitch with slightly-projecting boxed eaves. The exterior of the building is clad in pine shiplap siding. The original foundation is of rubble, except under the entry vestibule where concrete has replaced the original stone foundation.

(x) See continuation sheet

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Ward School

There is a belfry with the original bell and a gabled roof located directly above the entrance. The windows throughout the building are rectangular double-hung, two-over-two sash. The exterior doors are simple single leaf, panelled doors. A modern aluminum storm door has been installed in the shed roofed addition. Except for a small opening with raked blocking, corner board, and the belfry, the building's exterior is plain and without architectural embellishment.

The design, materials and workmanship of the Ward School are typical of the distinguishing features of the Vernacular Community Institutional Building property types that were constructed in Boulder County's metal mining communities during the late 1800s. Its intact appearance and setting make it an excellent example of this historic building tradition of Colorado. The Ward School is one of the property types that meets the registration requirements of the Metal Mining and Tourist Era Resources of Boulder County Multiple Property nomination.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: () nationally () statewide (x) locally

Applicable National Register Criteria (x) A () B (x) C () D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) () A () B () C () D () E () F () G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Exploration / Settlement

N/A

1898

Architecture

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Ward School meets criteria A and C for its historic and architectural significance. Its historic importance is derived from school's function as an institution in the town of Ward, the center of one of the most productive mining districts in Boulder County. Architecturally, the building is important as a Vernacular Community Institutional Building, a property type that was typical of Boulder County metal mining communities of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The development of Ward followed a pattern similar to many of the mountain mining towns in Boulder County. The settlement of the area began in 1860 with discovery of gold along Lefthand Creek by Calvin M. Ward. The following year the placer mining operations were supplemented with Cyprus Deardoff's discovery of the Columbia vein on Niwot Hill. Ward developed quickly as numerous mines were located along this rich gold and silver lode. Its population grew as the Niwot, Columbia, Madeline, Sullivan, Boston, and Utica mines created jobs and generated demand for goods and services for the mining operations and area settlers.

As the 1860s progressed, Ward also experienced the decline which typically occurred in the mining communities with the depletion of the oxidized ores near the earth's surface. During the late 1800s, various methods were tried to profitably extract and process the more complex sulphide ores of the district. Mills were constructed to reduce the ores into concentrated that could be more economically transported to a smelter. The Colorado and Northwestern Railroad was persuaded to construct a railroad line to Ward with promises of guaranteed tonnage from the area mines. The Big Five Mining Company, with other mining enterprises, made transportation improvements and expanded their operations with the construction of substantial facilities.

(x) See continuation sheet

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Ward School

The hopes for renewed prosperity in the Ward District never materialized, however. By the time rail service reached the community in June of 1898, most mines were exhausted and the bottom had fallen out of the silver market.

The Ward Schoolhouse was built during the same year that the railroad reached the town. In 1900, the building dramatically survived the disastrous fire that destroyed fifty-three buildings and the entire lower portion of Ward. The school was draped with wet blankets and served as a fire line, protecting the buildings above it.

The Ward School has been an important symbol of the community throughout its history. Its original construction was an expression of hope for the prosperity of the community in the coming years of the 20th century and it represented the aspirations that the residents had for Ward's future. Schools, like churches, were viewed as symbols of the civilization of the early settlements. Schools assured prospective settlers that the town was an appropriate place for families. Although the expectations of prosperity were not realized, the building remains as an important historic resource, a symbol of Ward when it was a promising mining town.

The Ward School has architectural significance because of the integrity of design, materials, and workmanship of its construction has been maintained. Its relatively unaltered appearance and setting combine to convey an important association of the past and create a district feeling of time and place.

Its straight forward design with a belfry, gabled vestibule, and its wood frame construction characterize rural schoolhouse construction in Boulder County during the late 1890s and early 1900s.

As part of the Metal Mining and Tourist Era Resources Multiple Property nomination, the Ward School meets the registration requirements as a Vernacular Community Institutional Building property type within the context of "Early Settlement and Community Development in the Mountain Region of Boulder, County, 1859 - 1910."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Baily, Delores. God's Country USA: Wallstreet, Colorado. (Fort Collins: Robinson Press, Inc.), 1982.

(x) See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested | Primary location of additional data:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Historic Preservation Office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> previously listed in the National Register | <input type="checkbox"/> Other State agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> previously determined eligible by the National Register | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> designated a National Historic Landmark | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
- Specify Repository:
Boulder County Planning Office

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property: Less than one acre.

UTM References

A <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	B <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
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Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing

() See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The legal description of the property is Lot 6; Block 156; Ward Colorado.

() See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the land historically associated with this property.

() See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: <u>Deborah Edge Abele, Consultant / Edited Barbara Norgren</u>	Date: <u>5/87 revised 12/88</u>
Organization: <u>N/A</u>	Telephone: <u>(303) 635-2065</u>
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City or Town: <u>Colorado Springs</u>	

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McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. (New York; Alfred A. Knophf, Inc.), 1980

Pettem, Sylvia. Red Rocks to Riches. (Boulder: Westype Publishing Services, Inc.), 1980.

Smith, Duane. Colorado Mining: A Photographic History. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press), 1977.

Ubelohde, Carl, Maxine Benson, Duane A. Smith. A Colorado History. (Boulder: Pruett Publishing, Co.), 1972.

Weiss, Manuel. Boulder County Historical Site Survey. (Colorado Historical Society), 1981.