

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

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: Poncha Springs Schoolhouse
other names/site number: Poncha Springs School District #3 5CF130
Poncha Springs Town Hall and Museum

2. Location

street & number: 330 Burnett Street (na) not for publication
city, town: Poncha Springs (na) vicinity
state: Colorado code: CO county: Chaffee code:015 zip code:81242

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
() private	(X) building(s)	1	2
(X) public-local	() district		buildings
() public-State	() site		sites
() public-Federal	() structure		1
	() object		objects
		1	3
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

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

Signature of certifying official

12-21-89

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

(x) entered in the National Register.

() See continuation sheet

Alvina Byers

1/25/90

() 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)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Education-School

Government-City Hall
Recreation & Culture-Museum,
Auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN - Italianate

foundations Concrete
walls Brick

roof Tin
other Stone Trim

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Poncha Springs Schoolhouse is a two-story, T-shaped plan, late Victorian Italianate style building. Typical of symmetrical Italianate buildings, the style is seen in the ornate shape of the dressed stone lintels, the stone sills and the stone quoins at the corners of the building, and especially in the belvedere style cupola or bell tower complete with the original bell (currently stored in the basement of the building). The cupola has a mansard roof with a concave profile. The openings in the cupola are presently closed to prevent snow and rain from getting into the building.

Situated in the center of town and directly across from the town park, the school is surrounded by large cottonwood trees that were planted in 1879. Presently the town garage is located approximately 150 feet west of the school, the fire house is to the east and a small storage building sits on the back of the property. These are all noncontributing.

Construction of the school started in 1881 and was completed in 1883. The contractor was C.B. Furnash and the sub-contractor was Robert Smith. This public institutional building sits on its original stone foundation which now has a stucco covering and belt course at the top. The building is faced with fired red brick laid in a common bond pattern. The bricks were made at the Salida Brickyard and hauled to the site by wagon.

The roof is a cross gable faced in tin with a standing seam. There are large double wood brackets supporting the wide overhanging eaves. This detail is also seen on the bell tower eaves.

(X) See continuation sheet

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

Poncha Springs School

The tall narrow, double hung, wood sash windows are four-over-four and measure 2'8" by 7'5". The windows on the front are in pairs and have dressed stone lintels and sills and there is a stone header over the entry door transom. The wood paneled double doors, installed in 1985, were made to resemble the original doors which are stored by the city. This is the third set of doors that have been installed on the building. Above the second story windows is a stone date panel with the date of construction. Four new concrete steps lead to the entrance. A concrete handicapped ramp has been added recently on the left side of the entrance.

Through the years there have been alterations to the building including a front porch added in 1915 and removed in 1980. It was built to protect the children from the wind and cold. In 1921 a 7' by 14' back porch was added and is still used for storage for the town hall and the museum. Per state orders, a fire escape was added on the rear in 1942 and a 12' by 16' concrete vault was added to the back of the school in 1976 for safe keeping of important papers and is still in use. While there are other buildings on the site such as the noncontributing fire house, garage, and a shed, which cause some loss of setting, the school building still retains integrity of design, materials, feeling and association.

The interior of the schoolhouse consists of a foyer with a cloak room and two matching stairways to the second story which are opposite each other. The stairs still have their original railings. Originally there were two classrooms on the first floor and a large auditorium with a stage on the second floor. The original stage curtain is still in use. There was a small kitchen with a wood stove which was used to cook food for the school children. The furniture in the second floor auditorium originally included benches and tables.

At the present time, one of the first floor classrooms is used as a museum depicting past school rooms with original student and teacher desks. The other classroom is used as the administrative office of the town hall.

Original interior architectural features include: bead board ceiling in the entrance foyer and pressed tin panels with an embossed floral design on the 12 foot ceilings in the two classrooms; the original slate blackboards in the classrooms; the original Oregon fir floors throughout the building; wainscoting 4' high around the rooms; and 4" pine trim on doors and windows.

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Poncha Springs School

Interior alterations include the addition of plumbing and bathrooms, remodeling of the kitchen, the replacement of the original carbide and kerosene lamps with electricity, and the conversion of wood and coal heat to natural gas.

This school building is one of the most prominent buildings in the community and one of the few public buildings in Poncha Springs built with local materials.

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 () 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

Architecture

1881

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Architect-Standard school plans

Contractor-C.B. Furnash

Sub-contractor-Robert Smith

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

The Poncha Springs School has architectural significance under criterion C for its excellent representation of the Italianate style of architecture that is used in many masonry buildings in Chaffee County. The school is recognized for its architectural merit as a town landmark. It continues to be used as a public building and to house activities that benefit the community.

The founding of Poncha Springs as a town, came in 1874 when James P. True and Henry Van Kleeck bought land in the area and began to develop it into a town. Settlers to the area meant children, and the need for a school. Classes were first held in a building south of the Little River. In 1874 Andrew McPherson began teaching in a log building near the rear of the Burnett ranch house. School was only in session for 60 days. The present two story school building was built in 1882 and shows some of the same Italianate architectural features seen on other Chaffee County buildings of the same period. Situated in the center of town across the street from the park, the school is surrounded by large cottonwood trees planted in 1879. The schoolhouse is the only two story school building remaining in the county.

(X) See continuation sheet

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Poncha Springs School

By January 1883, 67 pupils were enrolled in the Poncha Springs school. The largest attendance was 100 pupils in 1937-1939, during the construction of Highway 285 that goes through Poncha Springs. The school, originally owned by the Poncha Springs school district, taught grades 1-8 in the two downstairs classrooms and was used as a school from 1883 to 1957. As the number of school children dwindled in Poncha Springs, the district was consolidated with Salida in 1956 and the school building was traded to the town of Poncha Springs for a parcel of land. In 1962 the schoolhouse and land were deeded to the town to be used for town government and community purposes. One of the downstairs classrooms is used as a museum depicting the classrooms of the early 1900s. Artifacts in the museum include books, report cards, desks, teachers desks, diplomas and the original slate blackboards. The playground equipment from the school is still used in the park across the street.

The Poncha Springs School exhibits distinctive characteristics of the Italianate style in that it contains many of the architectural features prominent in the Italianate style. Among those found on the Poncha Springs school are the cupola with its double eave brackets, the bracketed and wide overhanging eaves of the cross gable roof and the tall narrow windows with the decorative stone lintels.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Shaputis, June, Kelly and Suzanne. A History of Chaffee County.

Nevens, Donna C. (Chaffee County Historian)

Poncha Herald, #4-1880; 1882.

Mountain Mail, newspaper, 1880-1882.

Colorado Prospector, Vol. 10, #7.

"A History of Chaffee County Schools, 1860-1986. Chaffee County Extension

Homemakers and Nina Green, Chaffee County Home Economist.

() See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: Less than one acre

UTM References

A <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</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
C <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	D <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

() See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All of Block 39, Van Kleeks' Addition to the town of Poncha Springs.

() See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property contains the land historically associated with the Poncha Springs School House.

() See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: John Valentine, RC&D Coordinator, Kathy Trujillo, Secretary

Organization: Sangre de Cristo RC&D

Date: 10/31/1989

Street & Number: 821 Desert Flower Blvd.

Telephone: 719-543-8385

City or Town: Pueblo

State: CO Zip Code: 81001

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Section number _____ Page 1

Poncha Springs Schoolhouse

Photo Log

1. Poncha Springs Schoolhouse
2. Poncha Springs, Colorado
3. John Valentine
4. Sept. 1988

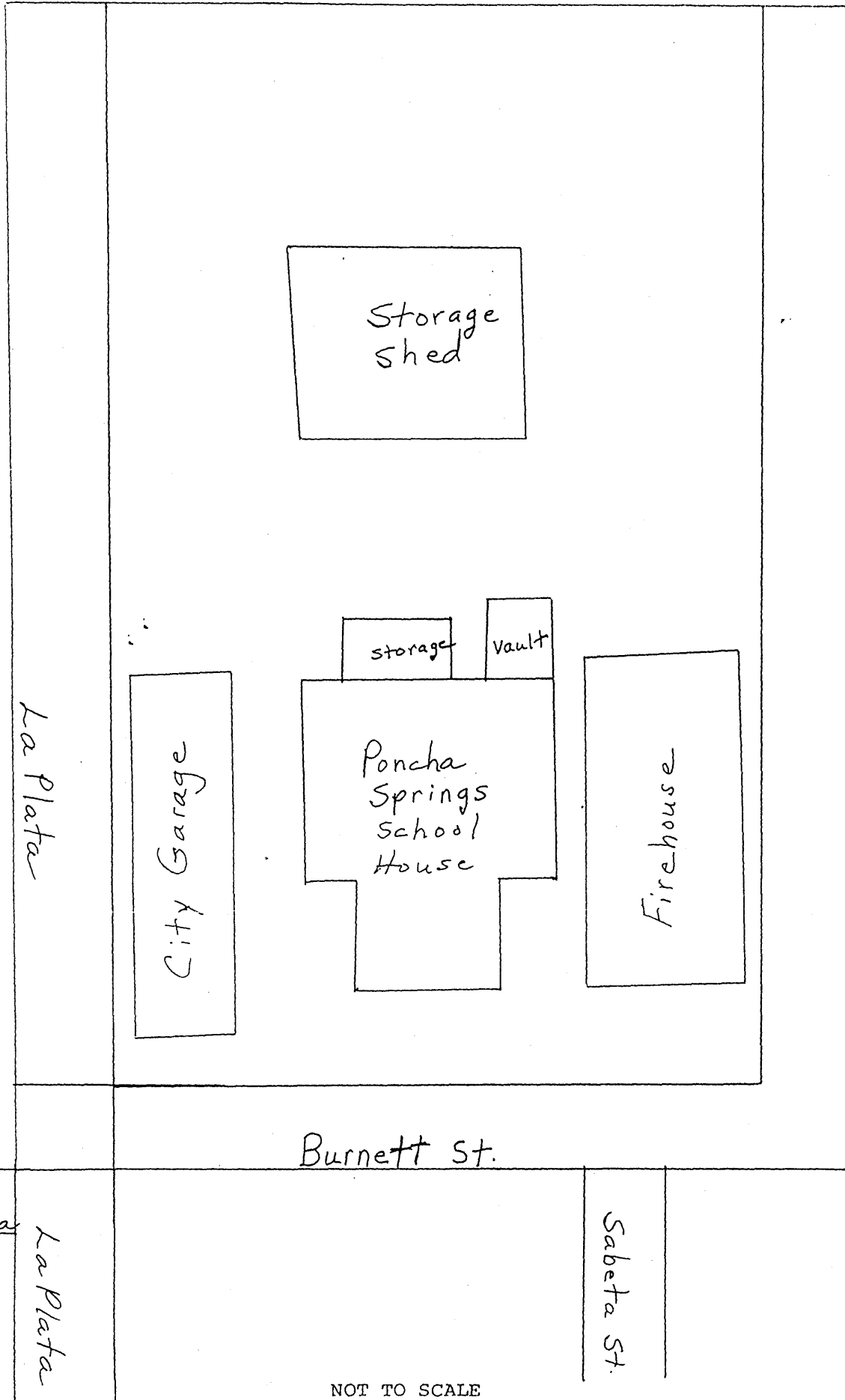
Photo #

1. West elevation, view east
2. South front, view north
3. South front, view north
4. South front and east side, view northwest
5. Same as #4
6. Second floor showing floor and baseboards
7. Interior blackboard in classroom
8. First floor interior, tin ceiling
9. North rear, view southeast
10. Southwest corner, view northeast
11. South front, view north
12. Historic photo, date unknown

PONCHA SPRINGS SCHOOL HOUSE

Map 2 of 2

U.S. Highway # 50



Burnett St.

La Plata

City Garage

storage

Vault

Poncha
Springs
School
House

Firehouse

Sabeta St.

La Plata

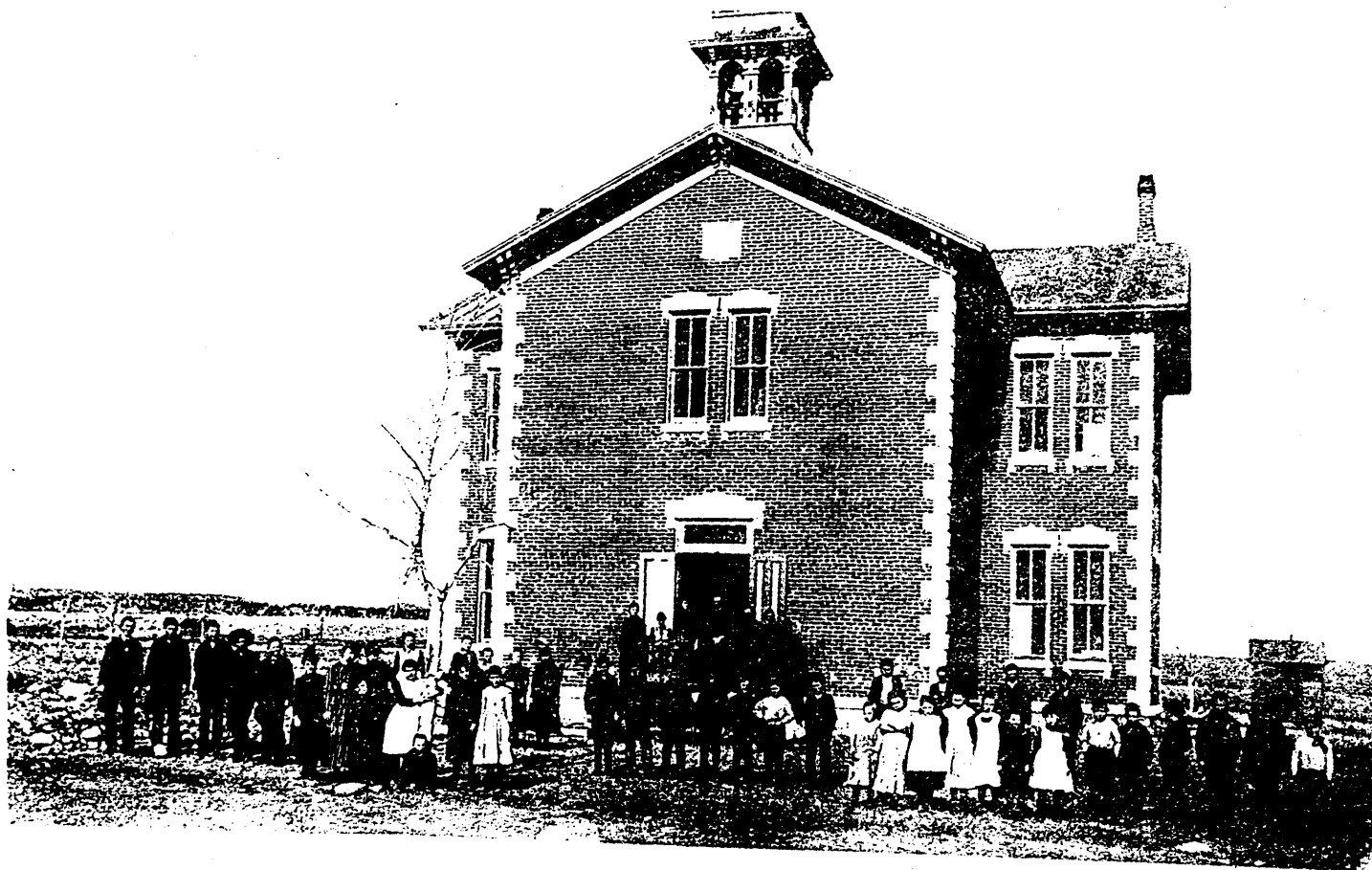
Poncha
Springs

NOT TO SCALE

Pohcha Springs School House

Poncha Springs, Colorado

Photo #11



EARLY PHOTO

Photo #11

Date unknown