

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: 92001407

Date Listed: 11/3/92

Black Forest School
Property Name

El Paso
County

CO
State

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

11/3/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Significance

Because one of the primary uses during the historic period was religious, criteria consideration A applies.

This information was verified with Barbara Norgren of the CO SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

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**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: Black Forest School
other names/site number: Old Log School of Black Forest

2. Location

street & number: 6770 Shoup Road (N/A) not for publication
city, town: Colorado Springs (N/A) vicinity
state: Colorado code: CO county: El Paso code: 041 zip code: 80908

3. Classification

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

Annulunnah Horton September 17, 1992
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. *Beth Boland* 11/3/92
() See continuation sheet
- () determined eligible for the National Register. () See continuation sheet _____
- () determined not eligible for the National Register. _____
- () removed from the National Register. _____
- () other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

Social: Meeting Hall

Religion: Religious Facility

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Pioneer log

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

foundations Concrete

walls Wood: log

roof Asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Black Forest School was constructed by volunteers in 1920-1921, as a one-room, one-story gabled roof, rectangular-shaped log building, to be used for the education of the children of the Black Forest community. Ponderosa logs, lumber, land and labor were all donated by the residents of the newly emerging Black Forest. It served as their school and immediately became the center for all community activities.

The Black Forest School is at the intersection of what has historically evolved into the center of Black Forest. Within proximity of the intersection of Black Forest and Shoup Roads are three churches, one restaurant, the fire department, the Community Hall and four businesses. This makes up more than half of all community buildings of Black Forest, indicating that Black Foresters depend upon Colorado Springs for their shopping and services.

Three other log structures are located on that intersection and within 400 feet of the schoolhouse. The log Community Hall was finished in 1929; and the log Black Forest Store was built in the late 1920's. The log church was started in the late 1930's and completed in 1940. Within one quarter of a mile, five more log homes can be found. Within a two and a half mile radius of the schoolhouse, at least ten more outstanding examples of log homes and buildings can be found.

(x) See continuation sheet

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Black Forest School

The Black Forest School, still in its original location, faces south on Shoup Road and is about 30 feet from the pavement. A restaurant is some 50 feet away to the west. Seven big ponderosa trees serve as a buffer between the schoolhouse and the restaurant. The Community Hall is 200 feet to the north across a parking lot that serves all buildings. The Black Forest Volunteer Fire Department's offices and garage are to the east with their driveway thirty feet away. One big pine tree grows between the schoolhouse and driveway.

The schoolhouse originally consisted of one room measuring 32' x 22' (704 sq.ft.) constructed of fourteen tiers from base to eave of hand-hewn and peeled ponderosa logs, 18" to 6" in diameter. The logs are notched and interlocked at the corners, with saddle notching and the spaces between the logs are filled with mortar. The floors are wood. In 1925-1926 the original structure was raised with jacks and a concrete foundation, with crawl-space, constructed. At the same time a small addition of 8½' x 17½' (148.75 sq.ft.) with a gable roof was built on the front, utilizing the same materials. The front and rear gable ends are covered with square cut cedar shingles. The gabled roof on the original building and the addition was of cedar shingles, but three layers of composition shingles have been added over the years. There are exposed rafter tails under the eaves. The original red brick chimney is still standing.

On the east and west sides of the original structure there are three 3' x 5 1/2' double-hung sash windows. The 1925 addition has one nine-light window, 3' x 3', on each east and west wall. In 1947, when the building was remodeled to become a residence, a fixed "picture" window was added in the rear (north) wall, measuring 6' x 3'. There is a standard, flush, wooden front door in the south end, with a concrete step.

A septic system was also installed in 1947, and the outhouse was removed. The septic system has been unused since 1977 and its condition is unknown. Water was originally supplied by a well, dug by volunteers in 1921. It was filled in and a new well constructed in 1947, located approximately 6' from the building on the southeast. It is covered by a wooden top, with composition shingles.

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Black Forest School

The interior of the original structure consisted of one rectangular classroom heated by a stove. The 1925 addition on the south front of the building was utilized as a cloak room and a storage area for coal. The school furnishings were meager--wooden desks attached to planks, chalkboards, a few maps. There was a piano for church, school and other activities. The school never had a phone. However, the school district was proud to have a bookcase with sliding glass doors, which was built into the back wall of the room. This bookcase has remained intact all through the years.

In 1947, when the building was no longer used as a school, the interior was remodeled to provide a living room with picture window, a kitchen and two bedrooms with closets. Electricity was brought to the building October 29, 1947. In 1951, indoor plumbing was installed, by the son of the occupant. The bathroom was located in the east portion of the addition. The exterior remained unchanged.

In 1975 some improvements were made to the interior for a change of residents. This included making a utility room in the west portion of the addition, with a hallway in the middle. In 1984, plywood covers were installed over the windows (for security) and the logs were treated with a preservative. Otherwise the building stayed the same.

With the exception of the addition of the picture window in the north end wall, the exterior of the building remains unchanged from the original construction in 1921-1922 and the construction of the addition with foundation in 1925-1926. There has been minor deterioration of the concrete foundation due to weather and the logs would benefit from a treatment with preservative; however, overall, the schoolhouse is in good condition. Considering the fact that the building has been vacant for over ten years, the interior of the building is in good condition.

The Old Log School is presently in the hands of the Regional Library District. There is hope that at some time in the future it will be opened as a branch library and/or museum.

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
<u>Social History</u>	<u>1921-1942</u>	<u>1921</u>
<u>Architecture</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1921, 1925</u>

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect Unknown

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

The Black Forest School represents a significant period in the historic development of the Black Forest locality and as such, meets criterion A. The Black Forest School also meets Criterion C for its distinctive characteristics of a type and method of construction. Constructed during the hard times of 1921 by the first permanent settlers of the area, the school building established the identity of the Black Forest community. It played an important role in rural education in El Paso County, but equally as important was its role as a community center. It was Black Forest's only community building during a period when residents were looking for permanence and cohesiveness in their new community.

During the last half of the 19th Century, lumbering was the predominant activity in the Black Forest, also referred to as "The Pinery". In 1869 General William Palmer formed the Colorado Pinery Trust Company and bought 43,000 acres, including a major part of the Black Forest. The sawmills operated by the Pinery and many other companies removed most of the marketable timber. Estimates of 400 to 600 million board feet of lumber were taken by 1912 for building railroads, as well as construction in Denver and Colorado Springs. Some of the trees were four feet in diameter. The men who cut the timber were called tie hacks and lived in little log cabins. The remains of some of these tie hack shacks are scattered throughout the area.

In 1905 the charter for The Pinery Trust Company expired and was never renewed. In 1918 the Edgar Lumber and Box Co. was incorporated and bought 12,000 acres of the

(x) See continuation sheet

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Black Forest School

original Pinery land. The purpose of the Edgar Co. was to manufacture mine props, railroad ties, shipping crates and building materials. Although most of the mature timber was gone, heavy timbering pressure continued until few usable trees remained. That's when the real estate market emerged. About 1920 two developments were organized to sell land for summer homes. The Dreamland Country Club offered five-acre tracts near a golf course, and the Brentwood Country Club had smaller cottage sites. After the stock market crash, these and other real estate ventures folded.

In the early 1920's the logging area known then as the Pinery took on a new name-- Black Forest. Permanent roads were being constructed to replace logging trails. Families were becoming year-round residents. They were attracted by the low living expenses, healthy environment (the Pikes Peak area drew many tuberculosis patients), and the natural beauty of the ponderosa forest. Most built log homes because the timber and sawmills were handy. They came to put down roots and establish a community.

Local histories state that the first school in the large area known as Black Forest was Blecker School, named for its first teacher. The date of construction is not known; however, it was located on Angling Road at least five miles to the south and east of the log schoolhouse. Around World War I the building was moved a few hundred yards west to Black Forest Road and was renamed Forest View School.

Fifteen to twenty determined families initiated a campaign to have a second school in the district, because Forest View School was out on the windswept plains several miles south of their wooded area. The decision to build the new school became a heated ballot issue. The success of these early settlers in establishing their own one room school at the crossroads (the junction of two of only three or four real roads in the area at the time) of the middle of Black Forest was the first step to creating an identity and a permanent community.

The Black Forest School opened in the fall of 1922 with Miss Ruth Maddox as the teacher for the first eight grades. Most of the children walked to school, although a few rode horses. The older students often helped with school chores, such as pumping water from the well outside and carrying coal for the stove. In time, playground equipment was acquired. The annual Christmas program (plus any other school activity) was a community affair. The school brought everyone together.

During the depression, a hot lunch program for the children was set up with government surplus commodities. For some ten years during those hard times, a generous lady from the Broadmoor area furnished an orange a week during winter

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Black Forest School

months for each rural school child in the county. The teacher made a weekly trip of twenty-five miles (one-way) to Colorado Springs, to pick up these supplies. She also exchanged books from the school library. Under supervision of the county superintendent of schools, the seventh and eighth graders submitted essays every two weeks for evaluation. All of the pupils anticipated preparing for the county spring music festival held at the city auditorium in Colorado Springs.

During the last years that the school was open, the enrollment at Black Forest was increasing, while Forest View was decreasing. In addition, the teacher at Forest View preferred to teach the middle grades, so all the first, second, seventh and eighth grade students of the district attended Black Forest. An old van with a wooden bench down each side was used to transport pupils between the two schools. There may have been around thirty attending the log school at that time.

Both grade schools were closed in 1945 due to a controversial decision to consolidate districts. These rural schools, once isolated islands of education and culture, were being urged to merge for the sake of better education. The Forest View School was sold around 1946 and moved to Hancock Street in Colorado Springs for use as a residence. During the next thirty years (1947-1977), the Black Forest schoolhouse was utilized as a home for the family of the county road maintenance man.

Mrs. Edith D. Wolford, a teacher in the Black Forest School from 1936 to 1945 recalled that "the school activities were the same as community activities because the school was what brought us together." From the beginning, the school was used for extra-curricular activities because it was Black Forest's own building and in the center of the new community. It was used, most extensively, for religious services. There was Sunday School held every Sunday. Church services were held if there was someone to preach. That could be a lay person, a visiting minister, or an occasional resident minister. They accommodated about twenty people sitting in school desks with another ten or fifteen on benches along the walls. The first step towards organizing a church was taken in July, 1932 under the direction of the American Sunday School Union. The Ladies Aid was formed in 1936 to promote the spiritual life of the community and start raising money for a building. The log church was completed in 1940 and officially dedicated in 1942.

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Black Forest School

Starting in 1935 Forest Vespers were held every Sunday evening. Vespers attracted people who might not attend other services. Members of the church community shared in the leadership of music, inspiration and fellowship. Mrs. Ruth Caswell remembers, "Gasoline lanterns served as the lighting system for the services. If the gasoline lantern in your corner was needing air pumped in or running low on gasoline, we would request the hymn, 'Brighten the Corner Where You Are'. Four lanterns would furnish the needed light. They were hung from the ceiling."

There was Bible School for children in the summer. At least one Bible Conference for young people took place in the Black Forest. "The schoolhouse was used for boys to sleep in with beds from wall to wall," according to Andrew Brooks, an early resident.

As the hub of the community, the schoolhouse was the scene for good times. The school, church, and social events were intertwined, because they often involved the same people. They were like a big family. Along with the box suppers, ice cream or pie socials, and picnics, there were maybe a few weddings. Sometimes there was a party for people moving away. Weekly dances were held. The desks were stacked against the wall to make room for dancing, and local talent provided the music. Nearby communities were invited to come. As the Black Forest grew, some of the other small communities such as Forest View, Table Rock, and Eastonville, started to fade away.

Very active in Black Forest was the Black Forest Ladies Club (Home Demonstration). The Ladies Club put on a play, had carnivals and other "entertainments" in the school. In 1928 the Sunday School and the Ladies Club went together to sponsor a pound social for the new minister and his wife. This meant the guests brought a pound or more of food to stock the pantry.

Starting in 1933 or 1934 and for many years to follow, the building hosted 4-H club meetings. On exhibit days, handmade articles were displayed on tables and livestock was exhibited in the school yard.

The Townsend Club met in the school for a few years during the 1930's. These meetings were of a political nature. Across the country, people were rallying to ask their government to pay \$100.00 a month pension to people over sixty who would promise to spend it. It was hoped this would boost the economy out of its depression and better the lives of older citizens as well.

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One day each year, an El Paso County representative would come to the log school building, set up shop, and administer driver's license tests. He would give an eye test, and a road test that required the proper use of hand signals.

The Black Forest School was instrumental in the establishment of subsequent community buildings such as the first church and the Community Hall, also of log construction. As the community grew, it became apparent that for many social events, the schoolhouse was too small. In 1929, the Community Club built its own, large hall northeast of the school. When the volunteer fire department set up next door, there was a well-established central community area for Black Forest.

The Black Forest School is significant architecturally for its distinctive characteristics of the Pioneer Log Style. With its notched log construction, chinking and framed gabled ends, the building is typical of what was built when the area first became permanently settled. As one of the first permanent community buildings in the area during its settlement period, this log schoolhouse helped to establish the character of the Black Forest area and to influence subsequent construction.

The construction methods and materials of the Old Log School of Black Forest typify the American rural school experience. Schools were crucial elements in identifying a community as civilized and consequently were built quickly. The Black Forest School was built very early in the settlement's development. The donation of land, materials and labor exemplified a community's strong desire to provide a learning center for their children. The Black Forest community was no exception. And like so many other rural schools, this one also resembled a house in its size, materials and method of construction.

The Old Log School is significant to the area because it marked the beginning of the community of Black Forest. It is the only early schoolhouse of the Black Forest area that remains on its original site and is intact on the exterior. Although the building operated as a school until 1945 when consolidation forced its closure, the period of significance ends in 1942 to comply with the National Register's 50 year rule.

9. Major Bibliographical References

von Ahlefeldt, Judy, Thunder, Sun and Snow, Colorado Springs: Century One Press, 1979.

Breckenridge, Juanita and John P., El Paso County Heritage. Dallas, Texas:: Curtis Media, 1985.

(x) See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: Less than an acre; approximately 6162 sq. feet

UTM References

A 1|3 5|2|5|9|2|5| 4|3|1|8|0|5|0|
Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

() See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

A tract of land located SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7 Township 12 South Range 65 W of 6th PM in El Paso County

(x) See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the building and land historically associated with the school.

() See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Linda Cozart, Annah Mitchener, Carrie Robertson

Organization: Old Log School Committee

Date: May 18, 1992

Street & Number: 6495 Shoup Road

Telephone: 719-495-2001

City or Town: Colorado Springs

State: CO

Zip Code: 80908

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ellett, Vera Rusk, Growing Up in Black Forest, Colorado Springs: Monarch Printing, 1990
- El Paso County Superintendent of Schools Annual Reports and Teacher Record Cards, 1922-39, Penrose Library, 20 North Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903, Archives of Local History Department.
- Wolford, Edith D., History of Black Forest Community Church. Three page typewritten report. Copy at Penrose Library, Local History Department, Colorado Springs, CO
- Minutes of Black Forest Ladies' Club Meetings, 28 Feb 1924 to 16 Jan 1929. Property of Black Forest Homemakers, c/o Carrie Robertson, 6495 Shoup Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80908
- Rusk, Virginia, "Highlights of the Black Forest Community," foreword to Recipes, Old and New. Kansas City: Cookbook Publishers, Inc., 1976 (Property of Black Forest Homemakers)
- Wolford, Edith D., Memories of the 1930's and 1940's. Three page typewritten report. Property of Black Forest Homemakers.
- The Free Press. "Teacher Retires After 52 Years," 20 Jun 1969, Colorado Springs, CO
- The Tribune. "News Story Kindles Memories for Forest's Mrs. Edith Wolford," 15 Dec 1977, Monument, CO
- Letter, 28 Mar 1991, from Andrew Brooks, P.O. Box 421, Creede, CO 81130
- Letter, 10 Apr 1991, from Ruth Caswell, P.O. Box 163, Fordland, MO 65652
- Colorado State Archives, Denver, CO: "School Census Records" Box 21 and "District Record Books of School District Boundaries," Box 22
- Interview with Edith D. Wolford, 6670 Shoup Road, Colorado Springs, CO, 12 Mar 1991, by Carrie Robertson, 6495 Shoup Rd, Colorado Springs, CO

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Interview with Bruce Black, 12190 Glenridge Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80908,
31 Mar 1991, by Carrie Robertson, 6495 Shoup Rd, Colorado Springs, CO

Interview with Clyde Roe, 13445 Davis Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80908, 10 Apr 1991
by Marge Potanko 6495 Shoup Rd, Colorado Springs, CO

Interview with Vern McCauley, 194 Owens St., Stevensville, MT 59870, 3 May 1991, by
Carrie Robertson, 6495 Shoup Rd, Colorado Springs, CO

The Black Forest News: (1) "Mrs. Edith D. Wolford Resigns After 52 Years Teaching,"
22 May 1969. (2) "Hearing Scheduled for Monday, Nov 23, for Acquisition of
Little Log School on Shoup Road," 19 Nov 1981. (3) B.F.V.F.D. Promises a
99 Year Lease to the Community Group on the Little Log School", 25 Nov
1981. (4) "Library Closer to Reality...Or Is It?" (5) Photo: "Face Lift,"
25 October 1984. The Black Forest News is published in Colorado Springs,
CO.

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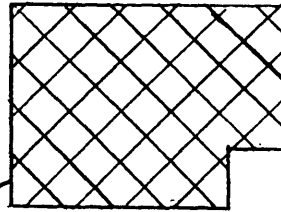
Black Forest School

Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

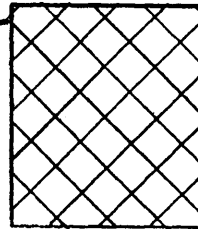
Commencing at the SE corner of Section 7; thence run North along East line of Section 7 a distance of 30.0 feet; thence angle left 90 degrees and run West a distance of 106 feet to the Point of Beginning of the property boundary; thence continue West on the same course a distance of 102.7 feet; thence angle right 90 degrees and run North a distance of 60.0 feet; thence angle right 90 degrees and run East a distance of 102.7 feet; thence angle right 90 degrees and run South a distance of 60.0 feet to the Point of Beginning see Map #2).



BLACK FOREST
COMMUNITY HALL (LOG)
1928

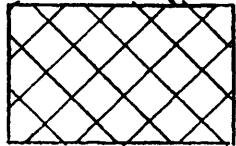


FIRE STATION



SCHOOL (LOG)
1921 - 1922

RESTURANT



22'-0"

32'-0"

102.7' ①

8'-6"

17'-0"


P.O.B

106'-0" ②

60'-0"

BLACK FOREST ROAD

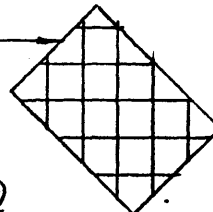
☞ TREES
① DIRECTION PICTURES
TAKE FROM

 OTHER BUILDINGS

PROPERTY
BOUNDARY

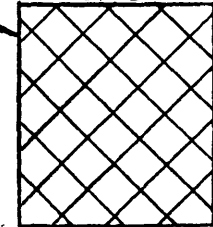
SHOUP ROAD

BLACK FOREST STORE
LATE 1920'S
(LOG)



BLACK FOREST SCHOOL (LOG)
6770 SHOUP ROAD
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
1921 - 1922
COUNTY OF EL PASO

CHURCH (LOG)
LATE 1930'S



NOT TO SCALE

Map 2 of 2