

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wiley Rock Schoolhouse

other names/site number 5PW196

2. Location

street & number 603 Main Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Wiley [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Prowers code 099 zip code 81092

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Gerardina Cortez
Signature of certifying official/Title

State Historic Preservation Officer

12/16/03
Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
[] See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
[] See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain
[] See continuation sheet.

Robert A. Beal
Signature of the Keeper
2/20/04
Date of Action

Wiley Rock Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Prowers County, Colorado
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
--------------	-----------------	--

1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education: school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: meeting hall
Recreation & Culture: music facility
Education: school

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Early 20th Century American Movements

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Sandstone
roof Synthetic
other

Narrative Description

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

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

Wiley Rock Schoolhouse Prowers County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

The Wiley schoolhouse was constructed in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) program. The one-story, flat-roofed building measures approximately seventy by seventy feet and is finished on the exterior with uncoursed sandstone slabs. The building fronts east onto Main Street on the east side of the Wiley School property, a complex of newer school buildings. The entire east boundary of the block is defined by a sandstone curb approximately 1.5 ft. high, also constructed by the WPA. Three wide sandstone steps lead from the street up to the sidewalk. These steps were designed to be loading piers for the school buses. The west side of the block contains the present Wiley Consolidated School District RE-13-JT buildings that house the elementary through high school classrooms, offices, gymnasium, and auditorium. The elementary playground surrounds the rock schoolhouse.

The symmetrical school facade contains a centered double door sheltered beneath a shed-roofed awning supported by curving corner brackets. The one-step concrete stoop is flanked by stone half-walls. Two sets of paired eight-over-eight, double-hung wood frame windows flank each side of the entry. A belt course wraps the building and forms the flat window arches. The arches and sills are formed of narrow tan sandstone blocks laid much like a brick rowlock. The blocks become progressively thinner in width from the center to the outer edges of each window bay. The parapet is steeped gently toward the center and is capped by flat sandstone slabs. A terra cotta WPA memorial plaque is bolted to the wall at the north corner.

The south elevation contains four evenly-spaced bays identical to those on the facade. The parapet steps down along the elevation from front to rear (east to west). A rear extension contains a single four-over-four window.

The north elevation contains four bays identical to the facade and an additional three six-over-nine windows along the western-most portion of the elevation. The parapet steps down to the rear (west.)

The west elevation consists of three sections which step back from north to south. The northern- and southern-most sections are faced with the same sandstone veneer as the rest of the building. The center section is composed of concrete block, stuccoed and painted white. Fenestration consists of a vehicular door in the northern section, a wood double door in the center, and a single and a paired six-over-six window in the southern section.

The sandstone veneer was locally quarried by the WPA workers. The inner walls are of ornamental concrete block recycled from another Wiley structure, the Theater and Equity Building.

The schoolhouse interior consists of four large classrooms with a central hallway, two bathrooms and a storage garage. Each classroom boasts large, multi-paned windows on all exterior walls. All the classrooms and hallway still have the original wood flooring, trim and doors in good repair. The original slate chalkboards hang in each classroom. The building was originally designed to house a blacksmith shop for manual training and agriculture programs, a sound-proof music room for the band, as well as additional classrooms.

The schoolhouse retains its original appearance both interior and exterior. Only one rear exterior wall has been altered from the original sandstone veneer. After the end of World War II, barracks from an air base located in a neighboring town were moved in and used for additional school classrooms. One of these barracks was attached to the west side of the schoolhouse for additional elementary classrooms. When the new Wiley school was erected, these barracks were all moved from the school

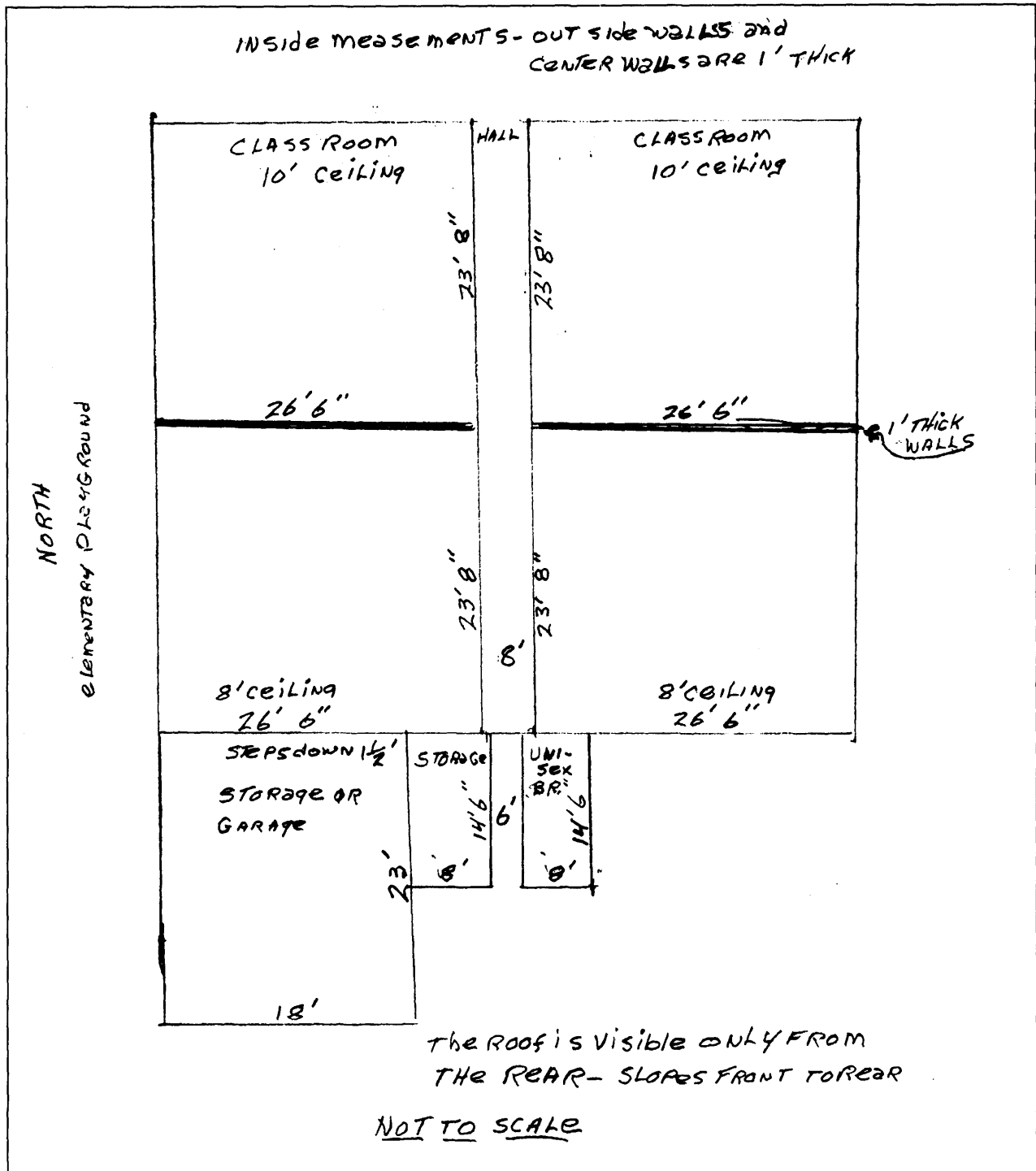
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National Park Service

Wiley Rock Schoolhouse Prowers County, Colorado

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property. The west exterior wall of the schoolhouse was simply sealed with a stucco finish rather than replacing the sandstone. As this is the rear wall of the schoolhouse, the changes do little to lessen the overall integrity of the building. Although the flat roof has been repaired and sealed with polyurethane, it is only visible from the rear elevation.



Wiley Rock Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Prowers County, Colorado
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education
Architecture
Community Planning and Development
Politics/Government

Periods of Significance

1938 – 1954

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

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Wiley Rock Schoolhouse Prowers County, Colorado Section number 8 Page 3

SIGNIFICANCE

The 1938 Wiley Rock Schoolhouse is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, in the area of Education, for its role as an important school facility in Wiley. The building served as an annex to the adjacent high school and provided space for classes in agriculture, a blacksmith shop for manual training, and a sound-proof music room for the band and orchestra. The building successfully served these purposes and went on to provide other educational opportunities.

The building is significant in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Politics/Government for having been constructed by the Depression-era Works Progress Administration (WPA) as a school district sponsored project. As a relief and public works agency, the WPA completed hundreds of projects across Colorado and the nation to improve local, county and state infrastructure while providing meaningful work for many of the county's unemployed. Southeast Colorado experienced both the general economic downturn of the 1930s as well as the additional financial and physical damage inflicted by the environmental forces of the Dust Bowl.

The Wiley Rock Schoolhouse is also eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The building typifies the WPA's use of local labor and local materials. The simple building exhibits creative masonry technique and quality craftsmanship. The success of the design and its execution by the WPA is borne out by the building's six decades of successful service.

The dedication of the Wiley community to the education process was demonstrated by the sudden need for additional classrooms when the rural one-room schools were consolidated into the Wiley School District. These rural schools only offered an eighth-grade education. If a student desired to attend high school, they were forced by necessity to room and board in town during the school week. After consolidation with the Wiley district, bus transportation was provided to all the students in the district. Fortunately, this coincided with the need of a WPA project for the area, and building the sandstone schoolhouse became a reality. The dedication of the community is illustrated by the continuing presence of the schoolhouse, a symbol of hope and stability.

The New Building

For the past eight months men have been working on a new building just north of the high school building. The new structure is to be a combined manual training, agriculture, and music building, and it is planned that it will be completed and ready for use by the beginning of the next school year.

The building, a government project, is seventy by seventy feet and is constructed of heavy gray stone, which came from the old Theater and Equity buildings, that the school purchased at the first of the year for that purpose. It is modern in every respect, with many windows to facilitate good light and a wide hall running through from east to west. It is a one story, flat-roofed structure with five rooms and is finished in native sandstone veneer with a broad walk of the same material in front of the building from the sidewalk.

It will provide modern, up-to-date manual training and agriculture class rooms and a blacksmith shop for manual training and agriculture students, as well as a sound-proof music room in which the band and orchestra may practice without disturbing students in study hall. They now have to practice in the auditorium.

This building will provide several much needed facilities to the school in giving more room and convenience as well as improving the appearance of the school ground and the town. In addition to the new building and included in the school-government project is a stone curbing which extends the entire length of the school ground on Main Street. Into this curbing are built four loading piers for the school buses. This curbing will do much to help the general appearance and neatness of the school ground.

Jack Esgar. "The New Building," *Wiley High School Yearbook*. Wiley High School Journalism Class, 1938.

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Wiley Rock Schoolhouse Prowers County, Colorado

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The 1907 ornamental concrete block Equity Building became the source of the masonry used by the WPA to construct the Wiley School. The school's concrete walls were finished with a veneer of locally quarried sandstone. (Source: Ava Betz, *Prowers County Colorado*. Lamar: Prowers County Historical Society, 1986)

President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration (WPA) on May 6, 1935, as a reaction to the Great Depression. Its purpose was to provide relief work for the unemployed through public works projects. In our area, many of those "unemployed persons" were farmers hit hard by the effect of both the depression and the Dust Bowl days of the dirty-thirties. Between 1935 and 1943 the WPA provided almost 8 million jobs at a cost of 11 billion dollars, and created a legacy of public welfare that has become monumentalized through their still used buildings, roads, dams, schools, indexes, oral histories, and art. The local sandstone schoolhouse is one of those living legacies.

The main focus of the WPA projects was that they made use of locally available materials and local labor. In this project, the masonry for the walls was salvaged from the old Theater and Equity buildings in downtown Wiley. These exterior walls were then covered with the native sandstone slabs, which were abundant in the grasslands along the river. The sandstone for the curb and stairways were dressed stones that were quarried locally. The WPA provided engineering and supervision of the project, and trained the unskilled local labor force. The project also included curbing and gutter for all three main streets in Wiley. The success of this project is demonstrated by the fact that all structures remain functional today.

The sandstone schoolhouse is the only building left of all the original school structures. Through the years it has served as classrooms for all ages of students as needed. Upon completion of the new school complex, the building was used as a senior center and museum under the sponsorship of the local Lions Club. It was once more reclaimed by the school district for use as a pre-school until their new pre-school facility was completed. The school board considered the possibility of demolition until a concerned group of citizens banded together to protect and preserve the heritage of this historic building. It is currently being used for local meetings of 4-H clubs, civic groups, and family gatherings; summer school programs; art exhibitions; and as a practice hall for the Arkansas Valley Wind and Percussion Ensemble. The building is still owned by the Wiley School District, but is leased to Prowers County, which has been a strong support and sponsor of our preservation goal.

Located in southeastern Colorado on U. S. Highway 287, the town of Wiley, incorporated in 1907, has managed not only to survive; it has remained a tiny but stable and vibrant farming community. Built from sandstone quarried locally, the Sandstone Schoolhouse was also built by local Wiley farmers. A number of these original "builders" descendants still live in the community and speak emotionally of how the work on this schoolhouse literally saved their families from the despair of the times. Due to its constant use as a school, there are families who have attended classes in the building spanning five generations.

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Wiley Rock Schoolhouse Prowers County, Colorado

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Betz, Ava. *Prowers County Colorado*. Lamar: Prowers County Historical Society, 1986.

Esgar, Jack. "The New Building," *Wiley High School Yearbook*. Wiley: Wiley High School Journalism Class, 1938.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lots 5-7, excluding the north 9 feet of Lot 7, Block 1, Original Town of Wiley, Prowers County, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nomination contains all the land and that portion of the WPA-constructed stone wall historically and directly associated with the school building.

Wiley Rock Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Prowers County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 699797 4225443
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth Ann Esgar and Carla Scranton

organization Arkansas Valley Heritage and Arts Partnership

date August 26, 2003

street & number 4278 Highway 196

telephone 719-336-4761

city or town Lamar

state CO

zip code 81052

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Wiley School District RE-13JT

street & number 505 Ward Street

telephone 719-829-4806

city or town Wiley

state CO

zip code 81092

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1 - 24:

Name of Property: Wiley Rock Schoolhouse
 Location: Prowers County, Colorado
 Photographer: Sally DePra
 Date of Photographs: August 26, 2003
 Negatives: Arkansas Valley Heritage and Arts Partnership

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
1	Front of building with curbing and steps at street; view to the west.
2	Front of building; view to the west.
3	Front entry; view to the west.
4	WPA terra cotta dedication plaque (NE corner of building facing east).
5	Front entry; view to the north.
6	Front entry canopy detail; view to the north.
7	North elevation; view to the south.
8	West (rear) elevation (from top of playground equipment); view to the east.
9	West elevation; view to the northeast.
10	South elevation; view to the north.
11	View northwest from north side of building (jungle gym & concrete pad on playground).
12	View west from south side of building showing new school buildings.
13	View south from south side of building (concrete pad and open area).
14	View east from front entry.
15	Hallway from front to back (east to west).
16	Hallway from back to front (west to east).
17	Flooring and blackboards in northeast classroom.
18	Blackboards in same room.
19	Wood flooring in same room.
20	Entrance door to Southeast room
21	Room used by Arkansas Valley Wind & Percussion Ensemble for their practices.
22	Inside southeast room - computers set up for summer school program
23	Looking from Southeast room into Northeast room
24	Inside of west entry doors.

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Wiley Rock Schoolhouse

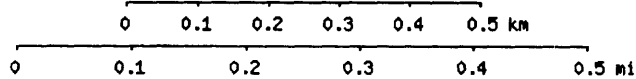
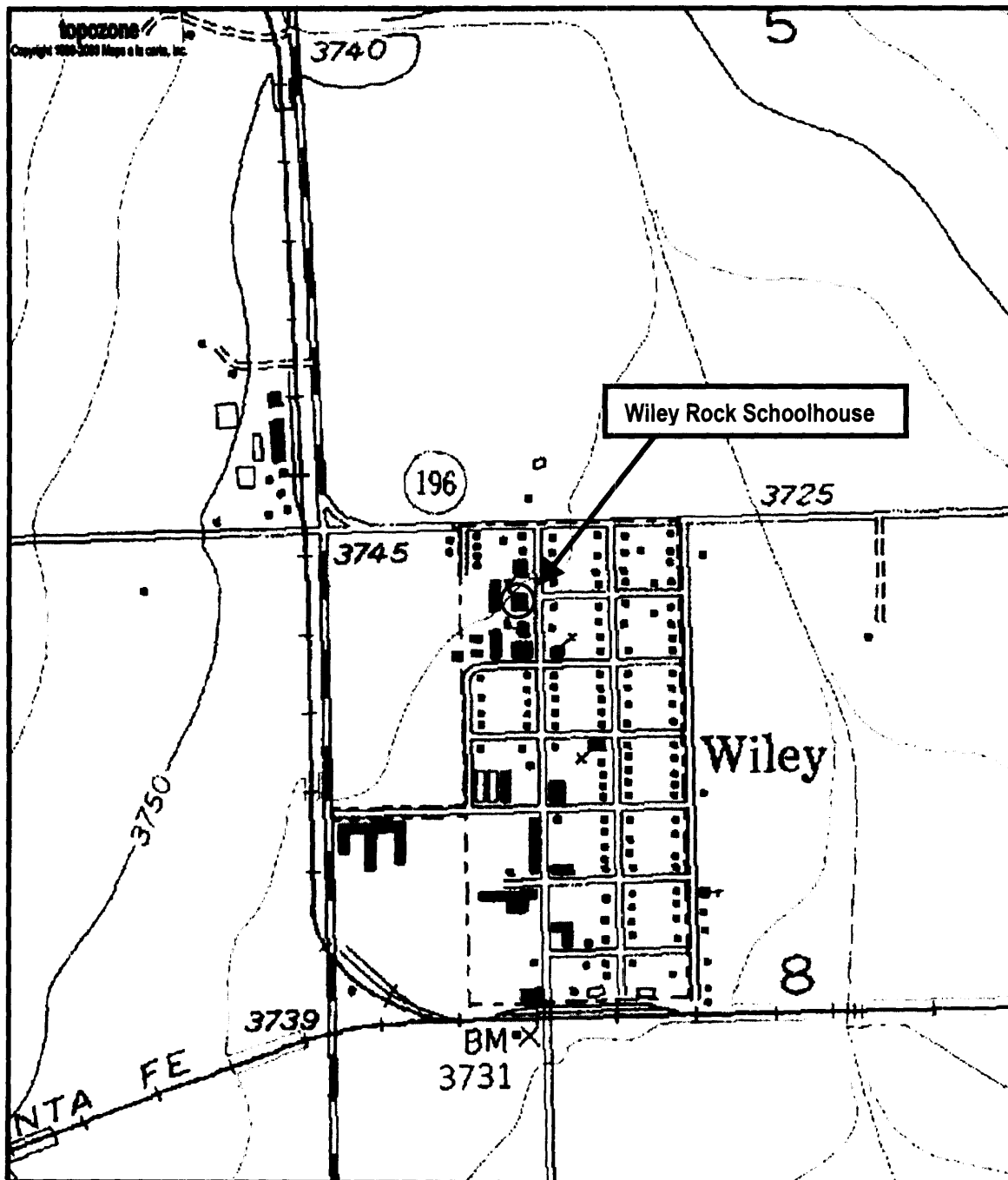
Prowers County, Colorado

Section number

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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Wiley Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series (enlarged)

UTM: Zone 13 / 699797E / 4225443N
PLSS: 6th PM, T22S, R47W, Sec. 8 NE¹/₄ NW¹/₄ NW¹/₄
Elevation: 3,740 feet



Map center is UTM 13 699797E 4225443N (NAD27)

Wiley quadrangle

Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum

