

PA 13629-18

DNA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE OF REGISTRATION: _____
 COUNTY: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC AND/OR COMMON SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL HOUSE

LOCATION

Two blocks west of U. S. Highway 287-385 in Springfield

STREET & NUMBER 281 West Seventh Avenue

CITY/TOWN/VENUE/STATE COUNTY CODE
 Springfield Colorado 03 Baca 009

CLASSIFICATION

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDINGS | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> PARTIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Fraternal) |

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Springfield Masonic Temple Association

STREET & NUMBER 221 West Seventh Avenue

CITY/TOWN/VENUE/STATE COUNTY CODE
 Springfield Colorado 03 Baca 009

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE County Clerk and Recorder

REGISTRY OF DEEDS/STREET & NUMBER Baca County Court House

CITY/TOWN/VENUE/STATE COUNTY CODE
 Springfield Colorado 03 Baca 009

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE On going FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

SPONSORING AGENCY The State Historical Society of Colorado 200 14th Avenue

DATE OF SURVEY STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
		DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The school house, a two-level structure 53 by 33 feet, is built of dressed native sandstone which came from a quarry east of Springfield. The stone of varying sizes and interlocking at the corners of the building is laid up with adobe mortar in random ashlar style. Although the adobe mortar on the exterior walls was originally exposed to the elements, it is no longer visible under a sealer of concrete applied in the early 1920s. The original basement steps of sandstone are concealed under a wooden cellar-type door, and are no longer used for entry. The main entrance is to the upper level, reached by a double set of concrete steps with an iron handrail.

The gable roof is covered with cedar shingles. A belfry for the school bell was part of the original building, but the date of its removal is unknown to the present owners. A brick chimney was also part of the original structure; now metal vent pipes serve the same purpose. The eaves are boxed and plain as is the cornice. The pediment is ornamented with the date, "1839," in bold stone relief high above the arched doorway. The original wide archway is partially filled in with brick of the same reddish tan color as the sandstone, and a door is centered in the smaller opening. In the bricked-in area above the door where formerly a transom was hung, the Masonic emblem indicates the present use of the building.

The lower-level, or basement windows are recessed about a foot, showing the thickness of the stone walls. These windows are covered with outside shutters. The main floor windows, once long, narrow and recessed, are now flush with the outside walls. They have been partially closed and stuccoed except for the top portion.

The first school house in Springfield, a well-preserved example of pioneer prairie architecture, has no tree or shrub to obscure its stark lines. It sits alone on its plot of ground which is covered with the buffalo grass native to Colorado and the western plains, a monument to the settlers who came West in the late nineteenth century.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	ARCHAEOLOGY	PREHISTORIC	ART
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ANCHEOLOGY	<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-			

SPECIFIC DATES

1835

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Settlers who came to the 1830s were like their ancestors. They brought their place names in the, then, Las Animas County east to the Rocky Mountains on Springfield. The horsestealers

In 1839 the new county election in November, Springfield 1839, the Windsor Town Company, H. M. McIntire, deeded to Sprilots, wfor and in consideration settler's dug-out horse a school

Lacking lumber on the tree structure of the school house, was a red-headed Irishman who t Colorado by train in December, to be when he fired one of the because a stone was out of line man in charge of the carpenters plaster work. Both of these ran Windsor Town Company organized laborers, at this time, were paid themselves. Estimated cost of

School sessions In the earl in early October and closed in school closed, Professor George of entertainment in the building Day, February 22, 1838, the Grats served cysters at the school house entertainment at the school. In Baptist ministers were held at the also convened here, according to the county took the required tax was truly a community center: as of the hardy settlers in those et

CHECK ONE
 X CREW VALUE
 MOVED DATE

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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SIGNIFICANCE

- PERIOD
- PREHISTORIC
 - 1400-1499
 - 1500-1599
 - 1600-1699
 - 1700-1799
 - 1800-1899
 - 1900-
- AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
- ARCHAEOLOGY
 - ANTHROPOLOGY
 - AGRICULTURE
 - ARCHITECTURE
 - ART
 - COMMERCIAL
 - COMMUNICATIONS
 - CONSERVATION
 - ECONOMICS
 - EDUCATION
 - ENGINEERING
 - EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
 - INDUSTRY
 - INVENTION
 - LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
 - LAW
 - LITERATURE
 - MILITARY
 - MUSIC
 - PHILOSOPHY
 - POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
 - REGION
 - SCIENCE
 - SCULPTURE
 - SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
 - THEATER
 - TRANSPORTATION
 - OTHER (SPECIFY)
- Community Center

SPECIFIC DATES 1839
 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Mr. Gaffney of New York

Settlers who came to the high plains country of southeastern Colorado in the
 1830s were like their ancestors who came to the eastern seaboard in colonial times.
 They brought their place names with them. So it was, when a fledgling settlement
 in the, then, Las Animas County, a vast area extending from the Kansas border on the
 east to the Rocky Mountains on the west, was platted in April, 1837, it was named
 Springfield. The homesteaders in the area were from Springfield, Missouri.

In 1839 the new county of Baca was organized, and in a highly controversial
 election in November, Springfield became the county seat. On the 10th of August,
 1839, the Windsor Town Company, who platted the town site, through its president,
 H. M. McIntire, deeded to Springfield School District Number Four, three 50-foot
 lots, 10 for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar! On the site of a
 settler's dug-out here a school was to be built.

Lacking lumber on the treeless prairie, native sandstone was used in the con-
 struction of the school house. Mr. Gaffney (first name unknown), the stone mason,
 was a red-headed Irishman who had learned his trade in New York. He arrived in
 Colorado by train in December, 1838, in a plowboy. A particular builder he proved
 to be when he fired one of the workmen, Alfred Allen (later Baca County treasurer)
 because a stone was out of line near the southwest corner of the building. The
 man in charge of the carpenters was George Robinson; V. S. Mason did the interior
 plaster work. Both of these men were from Winfield, Kansas, where workers of the
 Windsor Town Company organized under the laws of Kansas before coming to Colorado.
 Laborers, at this time, were paid one dollar for a ten to 12-hour day, and boarded
 themselves. Estimated cost of the rock school was \$2,000.

School sessions in the early years were short; in the late 1830s school started
 in early October and closed in mid-March. In the spring of 1851, the day after
 school closed, Professor George Edwin Knapp and other townspeople staged an evening
 of entertainment in the building with music, recitations and a drama. On Saturday
 Day, February 22, 1851, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) had a social dinner and
 served oysters at the school house. Coffee was for adults were a variety of
 entertainment at the school. Intergovernmental church services by Methodist or
 Baptist ministers were held at the school before churches were built. District Court
 also convened here, according to Baca County historian, Harry C. Kott. Members of
 the county took the required teacher's certificate examinations here. The school
 was truly a community center: educational, civic and religious. In all of the needs
 of the hardy settlers in those early years.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR ARCH USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 2 1977
DATE ENTERED	OCT 5 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

When the school closed in the spring of 1920 the years as educational and community center were over for the rock school. A new building replaced it. In August of that year the school district electors voted to sell the building which had echoed with children's voices for nearly 31 years. A new era began when it became the home of a fraternal organization.

The Springfield Masonic Temple Association acquired the school house in 1921, but the property was not deeded to the group until January, 1925. The school district's board of directors, W. A. Thompson, president, R. F. Flint, treasurer, and Victor G. Baker, secretary, accepted the sum of \$1,505 for the school.

The Springfield Masonic Lodge No. 153 received its charter in September, 1922. Eight years later in October, 1930, the Springfield Chapter, Order of Eastern Star No. 131 was organized, and like the Masons continue to meet regularly in the stone building. The Order of Rainbow Assembly No. 65 was started in May, 1949, and the Order of DeMolay in March, 1955. However, the DeMolay is no longer active. Royal Arch Masons Chapter No. 56 was chartered in September, 1957. The main floor of the building is used for the meetings of these groups, and in the basement is the kitchen and dining area.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baca County, (Colo.) Deed Book 6, p. 101 (1839). Deed Book 38, pp. 392, 393 (1925).
 Kett, Harve C. "History of Springfield's Masonic Temple." Unpublished MS, 1951.
 SPRINGFIELD HERALD: Weekly editions, 1898 and 1999, Vols. XI, XII.
 Terry, Elmer E., Interviews: former Clerk of Court for Baca County; member of
 Springfield Masonic Lodge No. 158.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Under one acre
 UTM REFERENCES

91-0 600 5800
 1131131131
 EASTING NORTHING
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Two (2) blocks West of U. S. Highway 287-335 at
 231 West Seventh Avenue

US ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Colorado	03	Baca	0009
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME TITLE

Mary B. Gansler, Certified Geographical Record Searcher.

ORGANIZATION

Fort William Bent Chapter (Colo.), DAR

DATE

10-23-1976

STREET NUMBER

323 Kansas Street

TELEPHONE

(303) 523-4520

CITY/TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Colorado 91073

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SUBJECT IS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATES:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer, I have reviewed the nomination and find that the property meets the criteria and procedures set forth in the National Park Service...

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE