

1248

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 American Legion Hall

other names/site number Kiowa County Fairgrounds Community Building; 5KW.87

2. Location

street & number west side of Hwy 287 just north of Eads [N/A] not for publication

city or town Eads vicinity [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Kiowa code 61 zip code 81036

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Georgia Coetzeglia State Historic Preservation Officer Date 10/4/07

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:

- [X] 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.

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 12.11.07

American Legion Hall
Name of Property

Kiowa 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.)

New Deal Resources on Colorado's Eastern Plains

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/ Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/ Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STUCCO
roof METAL
other

Narrative Description

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

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American Legion Hall
Kiowa County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 1

(New Deal Resources on Colorado's Eastern Plains MPS)

DESCRIPTION

The American Legion Hall is located at the southwest corner of the Kiowa County Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds are north of Eads on the west side of Highway 287. There is minimal landscaping at the site, which is mostly dirt and gravel. Trees are scattered around the grounds; a tree is located at the northwest corner of the American Legion Hall and a sapling has been planted on the east side of the building. Two telephone poles are located on the south side of the building and a bench is located on the west side. A side-gabled, wood-frame building, measuring 20' by 50' adjoins the northeast corner of the American Legion Hall. The southwest corner of this building touches the northeast corner of the American Legion Hall, but these are completely separate buildings. The adjacent building is used for exhibition and storage. Its construction date is not certain, but it may predate the American Legion Hall.

The single-story, 95' x 35' building rests on a concrete foundation. Three projections on the north side modify the otherwise rectangular plan. Stucco covers the wood frame building. The stucco is painted white and "Post 125 American Legion & Aux" is painted in red on the south side of the building. Corrugated metal roofing covers the side-gable roof with exposed rafter tails. The building features large, horizontal, rectangular panels on all sides. They are composed of vertical boards and painted red. The panels can be propped open to allow light and ventilation to the interior. When raised, these openings may also be used as serving windows to distribute food to fair crowds. Above the panels are widely spaced, small, horizontal, three-light fixed windows. The windows are wood-framed with wood surrounds. The doors are all wood with wood lintels and sills. They are composed of vertical boards like the wall panels and are also painted red. On the south (front) side of the building, there are two, double door entrances, seven panels, and three windows. On the east end there is one single door, three panels, and two windows. On the north side, there are three extensions: a small gabled roof extension holding the hot water heater (8' wide), a larger gabled roof extension where restrooms are located (24' wide), and a three-sided, polygonal roof extension where the stage is located (with walls measuring 17', 8', and 17'). The kitchen extension has a single window. The restroom extension has three windows on the north wall and a door on the east wall. The stage extension has four panels. There are also four panels and two windows located on the north side of the main building interspersed between the projections. There are four panels and two windows on the west end.

In the interior, there is a large gathering space with wood floors and a celotex ceiling held in place with wood battens. The walls are stained and varnished plywood. Wood chairs (which appear to be original) are arranged along the south wall and a stage is located on the north side. The restrooms are on the north side and the kitchen fills the east end of the building. The kitchen retains its original cabinets and stove.

Integrity

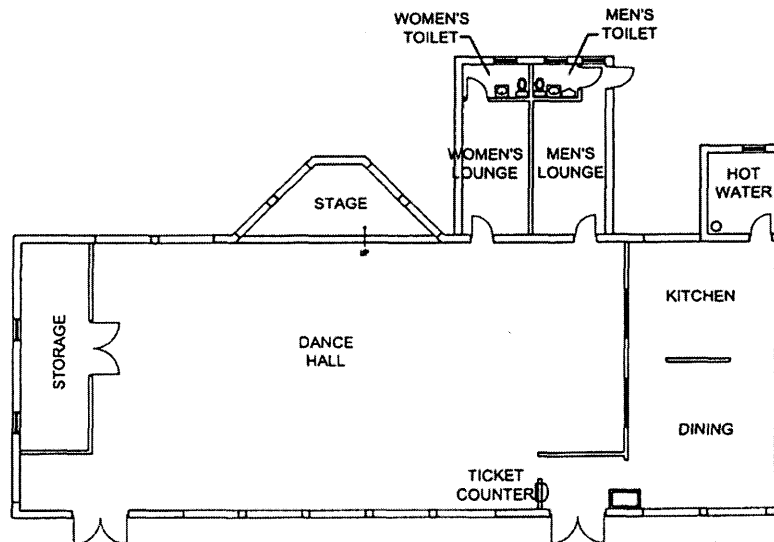
The American Legion Hall has a high degree of integrity in location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The fairgrounds on which it is located retains its historic character. The hall retains an exceptionally high degree of materials including all of its ventilation panels, doors, and interior finishes. The interior gathering space has remained virtually unchanged since construction. The only significant change was the construction of restroom and utility additions at the rear sometime before 1949. These simple, functional additions have the same frame and stucco construction as the rest of the hall. They are unobtrusive and do not detract from the overall historic character of the hall.

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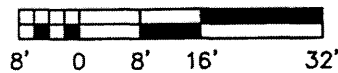
American Legion Hall
Kiowa County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 2

(New Deal Resources on Colorado's Eastern Plains MPS)



FIRST LEVEL FLOOR PLAN



(Source: Marc Diament's American Legion Hall Historic Structure Assessment, December 2006)

American Legion Hall
Name of Property

Kiowa 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)

- Social History
- Entertainment/ Recreation
- Architecture

Periods of Significance

1938-1957

Significant Dates

1938

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

WPA

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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American Legion Hall
Kiowa County, Colorado

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(New Deal Resources on Colorado's Eastern Plains MPS)

SIGNIFICANCE

The American Legion Hall, constructed between 1937 and 1938 under the Works Progress Administration (WPA), is being nominated under the *New Deal Resources on Colorado's Eastern Plains* Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). The American Legion Hall meets the registration requirements of one property type delineated in the MPDF—Recreational and Cultural Resources (subtype: Community Centers and Auditoriums/Gymnasiums).

The American Legion Hall meets Criterion A for its significance in the area of Social History for its association with President Franklin Roosevelt's legislative agenda to rescue the United States from the Great Depression. This agenda included the creation of an unprecedented number of policies, programs, and agencies to provide relief, employment, conserve natural resources, and assist in construction of public works—all with the greater goal of stimulating the devastated economy. Constructed by the WPA, the American Legion Hall presents an important record of the federal relief programs administered in Colorado's eastern plains during the Great Depression. Though the dire economic conditions of the Depression affected all of Colorado, drought and dust storms hit the agricultural-based economy of the Eastern Plains especially hard. The construction of the American Legion Hall provided much-needed employment in Kiowa County. The New Deal construction programs emphasized projects providing civic, educational, and health benefits for a community. During these difficult times, New Deal agencies also recognized the psychological benefits of recreational and cultural activities. This community building is a good example of the efforts of the WPA to boost morale during the Depression through the construction of buildings that the entire community could enjoy.

The American Legion Hall also meets Criterion A for its significance in the area of Entertainment/Recreation as a venue for community gatherings, dances, receptions, and other events. With a small population, Kiowa County has limited venues for recreation, making the American Legion Hall especially significant to the social life of the local community. Located on the fairgrounds, the hall is also associated with entertainment and recreation events during the annual Kiowa County Fair. The population of the county reached its peak of 3,786 in 1930 and in 2000 was just 1,622.

The American Legion Hall meets Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a rare surviving example of a simple, vernacular building constructed by the WPA. The WPA constructed many plain, wood-frame, functional buildings such as the community building. However, these simple, unadorned, wood buildings were much less likely to survive to the present than buildings constructed of stone or brick and more elaborate in scale and design. This is a well-preserved example of a WPA building type of which few good examples have survived. The hall is also significant for its construction methods, using recycled building materials. WPA projects aimed to spend as much as possible on labor and as little as possible on materials. Thus, the WPA reused materials from old buildings whenever possible. The WPA dismantled a collection of old buildings at Ft. Lyon in Bent County and reused the materials in several WPA projects in eastern Colorado.

The period of significance begins in 1938 with the start of construction of the American Legion Hall as a WPA project and ends in 1957. Though the American Legion Hall remains in active use by Kiowa County residents, the period of significance ends in 1957 in order to comply with the National Register's fifty year rule.

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American Legion Hall
Kiowa County, Colorado

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Historical Background

On May 17, 1937 a WPA project proposal was submitted to construct a community building at the Kiowa County Fairgrounds. The application estimated the total cost as \$6,028, broken down as \$3,968 from the WPA and \$2,060 from the local sponsor, the Kiowa Board of County Commissioners. The frame and stucco building was designed to accommodate a dance hall with a stage and a kitchen and dining/serving room. The justification statement read, "This project will provide a needed building for community gatherings and will give an impetus to social and athletic activities. Located in the Fair Grounds, it will be so designed that large gatherings, both inside and out of the building, may be served refreshments expeditiously. It also will provide a commodious shelter for Fair crowds in inclement weather." In addition, it states, "It will be conducive to building up community co-operation, spirit and cheerfulness."

Salvaged materials appear to have been used in the construction of this building as the proposal reads that the "project is submitted contingent upon the release to the sponsor by the U.S. Government of material salvaged from the wrecking of the 'Store Building' at Ft. Lyon, Colorado." There was a WPA project at Ft. Lyon to demolish buildings and improve the grounds. The WPA recycled building materials whenever possible since they wanted to spend as much as possible on labor and as little as possible on materials.

According to the application, the building would be 110' x 50' which was a little larger than the actual 95' x 35' building. Part of this change is due to the fact that the original plans called for the stage to be located at the western end of the rectangular building. Instead, the stage was placed in a three-sided extension located on the north side of the building. Construction began in July 1938. It is not clear what caused the delay between the project being submitted in 1937 and the start of construction the following year. Part of the delay may have been the need to wait for the availability of salvaged materials from Ft. Lyon.

It is not known if the building was always intended to house the American Legion and Auxiliary or if this developed during construction. The WPA file never mentions the American Legion, only referring to the structure as a "community building". But in August 1938, the *Kiowa County Press* reported that "work was proceeding rapidly" on the new "American Legion Hall". The community building was completed on October 27, 1938.

The American Legion Hall was one of several buildings constructed by the WPA in Eads. Other projects include the town hall, hospital, elementary school, and county garage. Constructed of stone, these other WPA buildings are quite different in appearance than the American Legion Hall. The town hall, hospital, and elementary school have all been significantly altered, making the American Legion Hall one of the most intact WPA buildings in Eads. On October 7, 1938 there was a joint dedication ceremony for the American Legion Hall, town hall, and hospital. Paul Shriver, the WPA Administrator for Colorado, attended as well as the WPA Director of Operations, Director of Employment, and Director of Finance. The newspaper described the dedication as "the first in the history of Eads at which so many valuable improvements will have been involved."

The building remains in use by the American Legion as well as functioning as a location for community gatherings. The building is a popular venue for receptions since it is out of the city limits of Eads and thus there are no restrictions on serving alcohol.

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The history of the adjacent frame building is not known. It is used for storage and exhibitions during the fair. An Eads resident reported that he believes it predates the American Legion Hall. In 1939, there was a brief mention in the *Lamar Daily News* of a new building (80' x 28') being constructed at the Kiowa County Fairgrounds to be used for exhibition during the fair and used to store county machinery the rest of the year. However, this refers to the stone county garage building which was originally planned for the fairgrounds but was relocated to downtown Eads, adjacent to the courthouse. No WPA files have been located for other buildings at the fairgrounds.

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American Legion Hall
Kiowa County, Colorado

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(New Deal Resources on Colorado's Eastern Plains)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Christman, Abbey. "Las Animas Post Office." Architectural Inventory Form. On file in the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado.

Diament, Marc. *American Legion Hall Historic Structure Assessment*. December 2006. On file in the Office of the State Historical Fund, Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado.

"Exhibition and Storage Building at Kiowa County Fairgrounds." *Lamar Daily News*, 28 October 1939.

"Kiowa County Fair Dates Definitely Sept. 8, 9, 10." *Kiowa County Press*, 5 August 1938.

Woelk, William. Interview with Abbey Christman on March 27, 2006.

Wolfenbarger, Deon. "New Deal Resources on Colorado's Eastern Plains," National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2005. On file in the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado.

WPA project files, National Records and Archives Administration, College Park, Maryland.

American Legion Hall
Name of Property

Kiowa County/ Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- 1. 13 692922 4261757 (NAD27)
 Zone Easting Northing
- 2. ____ ____ ____
 Zone Easting Northing
- 3. ____ ____ ____
 Zone Easting Northing
- 4. ____ ____ ____
 Zone Easting Northing

The UTMS were derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHF by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

[] 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 Abbey Christman (for the property owner)

organization Colorado Preservation Inc. date 2/23/07

street & number 333 W. Colfax Ave., Suite 300 telephone 303-893-4260

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80204

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 Kiowa County Commissioners

street & number 1305 Goff Street telephone _____

city or town Eads state CO zip code 81036

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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American Legion Hall
Kiowa County, Colorado

Section number 10 Page 7

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary, indicated on the accompanying scaled Site Plan, extends 15 feet (15') from the footprint of the American Legion Hall. At the northeast corner, the boundary follows the west and south walls of the immediately adjacent shed.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

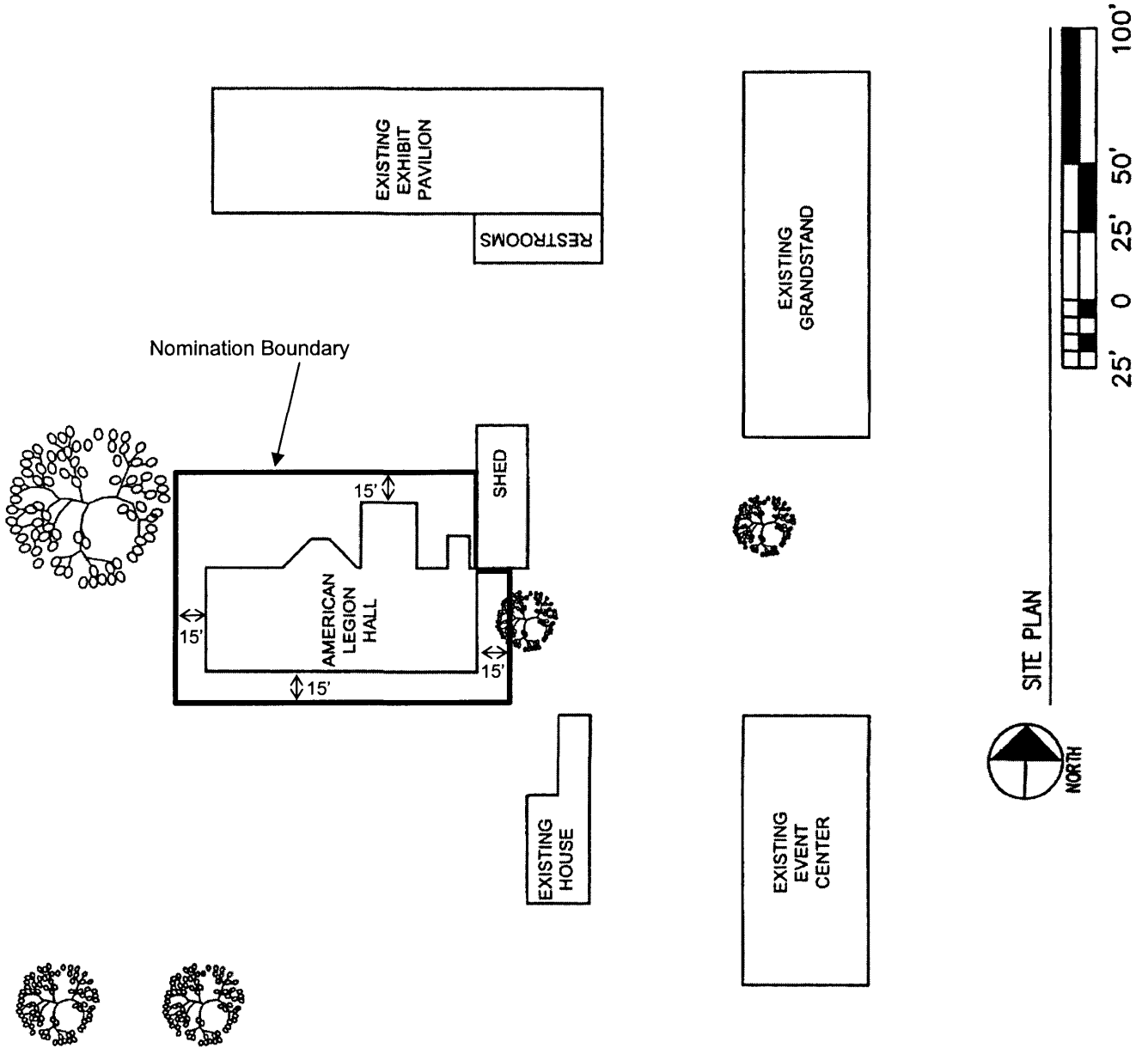
Although part of a larger fairgrounds complex, the American Legion Hall is the only structure at the fairgrounds associated with a New Deal program. The boundary was drawn to include the American Legion Hall and the immediately surrounding land, excluding the adjacent building.

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Name of Property: American Legion Hall

Location: Eads vicinity. Kiowa County, Colorado

Photographer: Abbey Christman

Date of Photographs: 3/27/06

Negatives: Digital files submitted to National Register, Washington, D.C.

Photographs printed on HP Premium Photo Paper with HP 100 gray photo cartridge

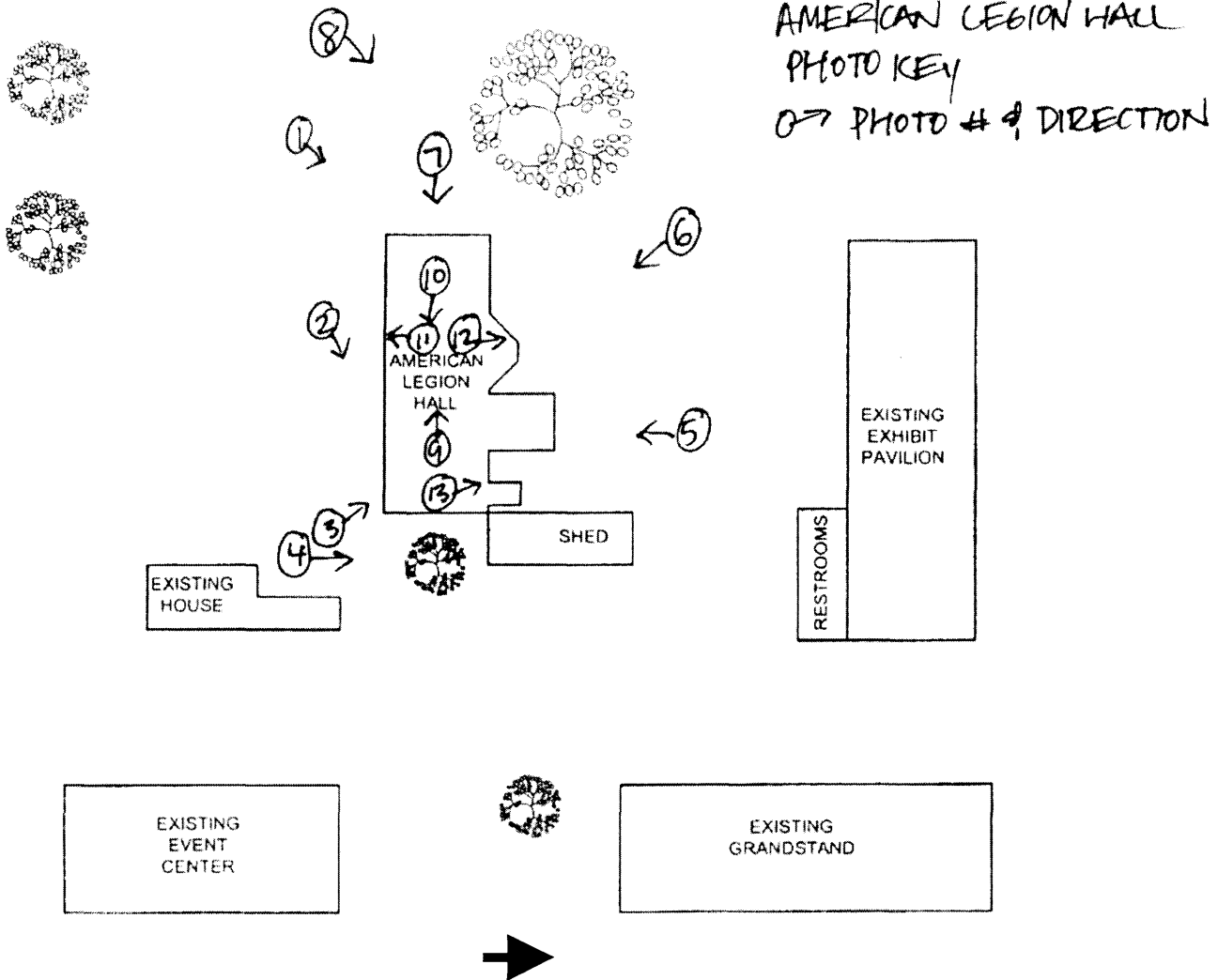
Photo No.	Photographic Information
1	South facade and west end of American Legion Hall. Facing northeast.
2	Entrance to American Legion Hall. Facing northeast.
3	South facade and east end. Storage building visible on the right. Facing northwest.
4	View of Kiowa County Fairgrounds, from left to right: American Legion Hall, storage building exhibit pavilion, and grandstand. Facing north.
5	North side showing utility addition, restroom addition, and stage extension. Facing south.
6	North side showing restroom addition and stage extension. Facing southeast.
7	West end. Facing east.
8	West end and south side. Exhibit pavilion visible on the left. Facing northeast.
9	Interior showing wood floor, celotex ceiling. Facing west.
10	Interior. Ticket booth visible on the right. Facing east.
11	Detail of seating, ventilation panels, wooden wall covering. Facing south.
12	Stage. Facing north.
13	Kitchen. Facing northwest.

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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Eads Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 692922 / 4261757 (NAD27)

