

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only
received APR - 6 1983
date entered

1. Name

historic Foidel Canyon School / ~~Twenty Mile School (5RT192)~~

and/or common Foidel Canyon School

2. Location

street & number Junction of Routt County #27 and #33 n/a not for publication

city, town northwest of Oak Creek, XX vicinity of

state Colorado code .08 county Routt code 107

3. Classification

<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

.name Colorado Yampa Coal Company

street & number P.O.Box 772129

city, town Steamboat Springs n/a vicinity of state Colorado 80477

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Routt County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Steamboat Springs state Colorado

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colorado State Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Ongoing federal state county local

depository for survey records Colorado Preservation Office

city, town Denver state Colorado

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The site of the Foidel Canyon School is located in Routt County, approximately twenty-four miles southwest of Steamboat Springs at the junction of Routt County Road #27 and #33. The Energy Fuel Corporation mining activities are located south of the school site. The maintenance facility for the mine vehicles is located to the east across Road #33. A spur of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad runs past the site from the northeast to the southwest.

The school buildings are located in an open area, approximately one acre in size, which is enclosed by a chain link fence 5½ feet high. The chain link is supported by iron posts placed at 6 foot intervals and secured by a similar top rail.

The three frame buildings are of a design typical of late 19th and early 20th century rural schoolhouses in Colorado. The structures include a schoolhouse, the teacherage and a wood or coal shed which are located at the eastern side the schoolyard. The schoolhouse is in the northeast portion of the schoolyard and faces south. It is one story and rectangular, approximately 25 feet wide by 35 feet deep. The foundation is of uncoursed stone rubble, probably of local origin. The roof is gabled with eave end returns. The roofing material is galvanized sheet metal with raised seams. There is a partially enclosed belfry above the entrance facade. The gabled roof of the belfry echos that of the main building and is supported at the four corners by square posts. The bell is no longer extant. Behind the belfry is a red brick chimney.

Extending the width of the main facade is a shed porch supported by square posts. The exterior of the main building is clapboard painted white. The enclosed portion of the belfry is finished in the same manner. The paneled central entrance door has a transom above and double hung 4 / 4 windows on either side. On each side of the building is a window with 4 over 4 pane sash.

The openings on the west side of the schoolhouse, in addition to a stationary window, are double hung 8 / 8 windows. On the east side there are windows of corresponding size. All windows have wood trim and a drip board at the top.

The entrance door of the schoolhouse leads into a small vestibule or cloakroom with the central brick chimney dividing it from the classroom. Doors on each side of the chimney lead into the classroom. The upper portion of which is faced with decorative pressed tin. Below is board and bead wainscoting. The ceiling has been dropped, but it is probable that the tin ceiling is still intact. (The walls and ceiling of the cloakroom have not been dropped and the pressed tin cornice moulding and ceiling panel is visible.) There is narrow width wood flooring throughout the building.

The teacherage, at the southeast end of the schoolyard, is just south of the front of the schoolhouse. It is a rectangular one-story building with a gabled roof faced with galvanized sheet metal. It is oriented with the long side facing the schoolhouse and the gable ends to the east and west. The main doorway located on the pitch side of the roof, is sheltered by a small entrance porch with a gabled roof, supported by two square posts. The entrance is off center with double hung, 2 / 2 windows. The rear of the building has 3 windows of identical size. The exterior is of lap siding of a later period than the clapboard of the schoolhouse. The siding is painted white with green trim.

West of the teacherage is a small wood or coal shed with lap siding. The roof is a hip faced with wood shingles. The shed was probably constructed at the same time

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Foidel Canyon School
Twentymile School

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

as the teacherage.

All the buildings are in fair to poor condition and in need of stabilization, paint, and window glass to prevent further deterioration. At the northwest corner of the site there is an above ground swimming pool and a small low shed in the southwest corner which belong to a recent tenant and will be removed from the site. For the purpose of the National Register nomination, the 3 school buildings, the fence and the area inside the fence, exclusive of the 2 structures belonging to the former tenant, are to be considered for the nomination. These boundaries comprise the entire school complex. In addition to the three buildings, there is a covered well and flagpole just to the east of the southeast corner of the schoolhouse.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1923-24

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Foidel Canyon School, which includes an intact one-room schoolhouse and "teacherage," is important in illustrating rural education facilities prevalent in rural Colorado in the early twentieth century. Because of the state of preservation of the complex, it serves as an excellent example of the styling typical of such rural school buildings of the period. The school also has significance for the role it played in the history of education in Routt County.

Routt County, located in the northwest section of the state, has a variety of topography with elevations ranging from 6,000 feet in the wide fertile valleys to over 12,000 feet on the peaks of the Rocky Mountains. Much of the county is devoted to ranching and other agricultural pursuits. In such isolated areas, the one-room schoolhouse thus had an important part in the lives of the ranch and farm families.

Settlement in Foidel Canyon did not come until some years after the discovery of gold at Hahn's Peak in 1861 and after the first settlement at Steamboat Springs in 1875. According to local history, the Foidel family was the first to settle here in 1887.

The first school district in Routt County was organized at Snake River on March 5, 1881. Shortly thereafter, additional districts were organized to accommodate families living in other remote sections of the county where severe winters and mountainous terrain made it difficult to attend school in the towns. One of the largest school district expansions occurred in the 1920s as a result of the increase of homesteaders in the valleys after 1900. Most of these new school buildings were of frame construction and many of them still had only one room which was heated by a coal stove. (Few of the rural schools had electricity until the arrival of REA in the 1940s.)

The time of year school was opened depended on the weather and location. Many opened in April and closed in December before the on-set of bad weather. The children came either by foot, horseback or skis. The number of students in each school varied from year to year, with as few as two or three or as many as forty-five. The grades ranged from the first to the eighth and the ages of the children determined the grades taught in a given year. Most of the children had responsibilities at home much of the year and therefore many of the male students did not graduate until their late teens. After graduation from the eighth grade the children attended high school in the nearest town.

Some of the school districts had a residence next door to the schoolhouse where the teachers lived during the school year. Where there was no "teacherage," the teachers boarded with neighboring ranch families. These teachers were usually young, single women who were governed by a stringent code of dress and deportment which was written into their teaching contracts.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See footnotes.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 96 acre

Quadrangle name Rattlesnake Butte

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	3	3	2	5	5	0	0	4	4	6	9	1	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Township 5 North, Range 86 West, Section 29, SW of SE quarter (Routt County, Colorado). Nominated is a fenced area, 200 feet by 210 feet, as shown on Map 1.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Norgren, Consultant

Edited: GM

organization --

date June 1982

street & number 7453 East Jefferson Drive

telephone 771-0124

city or town Denver

state Colorado

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Barbara Norgren

title State Historic Preservation Officer (Acting)

date March 23, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Entered in the
National Register

date 5/9/83

for *Delores Byers*
Keeper of the National Register

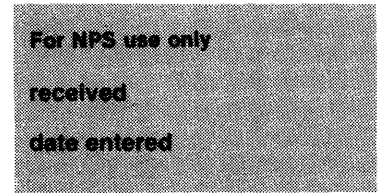
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Foidel Canyon School, Routt County, Colorado
Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

According to local residents, Foidel School is the third building on this site. The first was a barn of undetermined origin and age. The barn was razed in 1913 for the construction of the first Foidel School in District 27. Before that time, the children attended schools in Oak Creek, Pinnacle and Eddy. In 1923 or 1924, the present school building was constructed on the site of the first one.² The exact date of construction and the identity of the builder are uncertain. It is possible that a Steamboat Springs carpenter, Clyde Hanks, worked on the construction, but there are no records to substantiate this assumption.³ There are also no records establishing the date of construction of the teacherage and coal shed, but it is believed they were built after the schoolhouse, perhaps around 1925.

The Joseph F. Long family, one of the ranch families in the area, had a long association with the Foidel Canyon School. Joseph Long served as a school director in the district from 1914 to 1938 and his wife taught classes at their ranch before the first school building was built. Long's three daughters, Helen, Alice, and Mary, attended school there and were also teachers at the school in the 1920s. Alice was the first resident at the teacherage.

The use of the one-room schoolhouses in Routt County declined in the 1940s when some of the children were bused into larger urban schools. In 1962, with the consolidation of the county school districts, the doors of the one-room schools closed forever. Some of these buildings are now private residences, but many are vacant and ravaged by time, weather and vandals. Foidel School is among the vacant ones, but the Energy Fuels Corporation plans to secure and protect the buildings from further deterioration.

The mining activity in this area will continue for about another fifteen years, at which time all of the equipment and buildings will be removed and the surrounding area will be returned to its original appearance.

¹The local school in Routt County's rural communities was not only used for educational purposes, but was also the center for local social gatherings. In most instances, the one-room schoolhouse was the focal point of the community's religious, social, and political activities--ranging from elaborate Christmas programs to box suppers and Saturday night dances. The school also served as the local polling place and for church and Sunday School services. Community meetings as well as weddings and shivarees were held in these small rural buildings.

²The Foidel School was located on public land until January 18, 1917, when Linden G. Batton was granted a land patent for 160 acres under the Homestead Act. The U. S. Government retained the canal, ditch, and coal rights.

³In the 1920s, Hanks was responsible for a number of rural school buildings in the county which are of a design similar to Foidel.