

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 23 1986

date entered MAY 22 1986

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

1. Name

historic Bunce School

and/or common Bunce School

2. Location

street & number Hwy 7, 3.8 miles south of Allenspark n/a not for publication

city, town Allenspark n/a vicinity of

state Colorado code 08 county Boulder code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Allenspark Fire Protection District c/o Bruce Kester, President

street & number P.O.Box 153

city, town Allenspark n/a vicinity of state Colorado 80510

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Boulder County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Boulder state Colorado

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

city, town Denver state Colorado 80203

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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 date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Bunce School is a log building, constructed in 1888 in the mountains of rural Boulder County. With the Continental Divide as a backdrop, the schoolhouse is set just off Hwy 7 in a wooded area some four miles south of the small community of Allenspark.

The schoolhouse is constructed of broad axe hewn logs, square notched at the corners. The building, roughly 25' by 17', rests on stone rubble piers. The front entrance is in the west gable end with, as originally constructed, only a small stoop at the front door.¹ Other bays include two windows on the north side and two on the south, all approximately 2' wide and 5' in height and spaced equidistant. All the bays have plain wood surrounds. The roof is covered by corrugated tin.

The interior consists of one open room, the walls and ceiling of which are now covered with a very closely corrugated sheet metal. (The date it was installed has not been established.) The flooring has been covered with vinyl tiles.

There are two other buildings on the property. They include a 1920s or '30s frame front gable garage with overhead track door, which sits to the north side of the schoolhouse, and a frame outhouse of early 1900s construction. The outhouse is located approximately 25' to the east of the garage and is a contributing building. The garage, in deteriorated condition and of no historic or architectural interest, is non-contributing.

¹Over the years a series of porches were built, some with simple roofs and wood railings. This evolved into a fully enclosed porch which was used for storage. The porch was removed in 1985 except for the flooring.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1888

Builder/Architect V.H. "Dick" Rowley

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bunce School is a well preserved example of the structures that served as educational facilities in the high mountain areas of Colorado in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is one of only two log schoolhouses left in Boulder County.¹ As with similar facilities, "The Bunce" also served as a focal point for most of the community life of the surrounding mountain area.

The school dates to the early settlement period of Allenspark. Alonzo Allen, for whom the community is named, either homesteaded or "squatted" in the area in 1864. In 1896 George Mack homesteaded at a location nearly two miles west of Allen's original homesite, naming it the Allenspark Land and Townsite, which became today's community of Allenspark. Except for a brief period from about 1903 to 1912 during which there was a flurry of gold mining activity, the community has maintained a small population.

Bunce School was organized as Boulder County School District #49 on April 24, 1886. The school building was constructed in 1888 by V.H. "Dick" Rowley and J. H. Bunce. An ex-mayor of Louisville, Kentucky and an early settler in the area, Bunce served as president of the school district from 1894 to 1897. By 1893 the school had grown to 24 students and to 41 by 1896, serving mainly the vicinity of Allenspark. The school continued in operation until 1940 when the district was consolidated and a new school building was constructed in the community.

Although the building was no longer used as a school, the then owner of the property, L.B. Kelley, deeded the school and the land to the new school district #59 on July 26, 1954. Further consolidations occurred, and the School District transferred ownership of the property to the Allenspark Fire Protection District on February 25, 1969.

In the early years, school and community social life were closely intertwined. Bunce School functioned as a community center from its construction in 1888 until 1951, when a new gathering place, the St. Vrain Pow Wow Grounds, was acquired. Little use was made of the building after that date until the Fire District reopened it as an administration and recreation center for the volunteer fire fighters. In the 1970s the building was leased to the Colorado State Forestry Service as an operations center in its major effort to control pine beetle infestation. Several uses for the building are presently under consideration; however, under the terms of the deed, any use must be school or community-related by a governmental or non-profit organization.

¹Manuel Weiss, Historic Survey of Boulder County, Colorado Historical Society.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Durning, Mabel. Historical Reminiscing in the Allenspark Mountain Area, Longmont: Sharer Books, 1975.
Boulder County School Records
Minutes - Board Meetings District #49.
~~Weiss, Manuel. Boulder County Survey, Colorado Historical Society, Denver, CO.~~

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .88 acres

Quadrangle name Raymond, Colorado

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	3	4	6	0	1	3	0	4	4	4	6	8	8	1	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 2 N, Range 72 W. Beginning at intersection Hwy 7 and Section 5, South 88 degrees 58' for 807.9', thence S 42 degrees 38' for 79.2', thence S 79 degrees 41' W for 372.6', thence N 32 degrees 59' W for 158' to N line of Sect 5, thence S 88 degrees 58' for 399.1' to point of beginning.

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 Bruce N. Kester, President, Board, Allenspark Fire Protection District

organization Allenspark Fire Protection District date December 1985

street & number P.O. Box 214 telephone 747-2604

city or town Allenspark state Colorado 80510

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 Sudley

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 16, 1986

For NPS use only

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

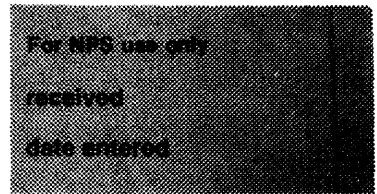
for Allene Byers date 5/22/86
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet Bunce School

Item number 9

Page 2

Letters and teachers class records 1892 to 1940.