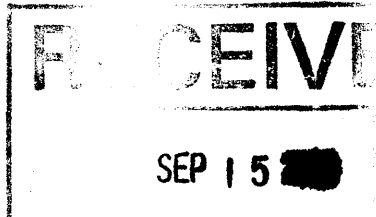


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Rimrock School

other names/site number Redtop School; Rim Rock School; 5GN1410

2. Location

street & number County Road 24 [N/A] not for publication

city or town Sapinero [X] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Gunnison code 051 zip code 81220

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.)

Richard M. Pritchett State Historic Preservation Officer Sept 7, 2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Office, 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.

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper

10/12/00 Date of Action

Rimrock School
Name of Property

Gunnison 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	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

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

Rural School Buildings in Colorado

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/school

Social/meeting hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rural schoolhouse

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood

roof Steel

other

Narrative Description

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

Rimrock School
Name of Property

Gunnison 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
- Social History
- Architecture

Periods of Significance
c.1920-1946

Significant Dates
c.1920

Significant Person(s)
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

Rimrock School
Name of Property

Gunnison County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 282990 4251720
Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

2. 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 Eileen Kaser

organization n/a date 05/09/2000

street & number 15355 68.00 Rd. telephone 970-249-2012

city or town Montrose state Colorado zip code 81401

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 John A. and Eileen M. Kaser

street & number 15355 68.00 Road telephone 970-249-2012

city or town Montrose state CO zip code 81401

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.)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Rimrock School, Gunnison County, CO
Rural School Buildings in Colorado - MPS

DESCRIPTION

Rimrock School is located in a still rural setting area off of Gunnison County Rd. 24, several miles to the southwest of Sapinero and just to the east of the Montrose County line. Cimarron in Montrose County is located to the northwest. County Rd. 24 extends to the south off of U.S. Highway 50 between the Curecanti National Recreation Area and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, and the school is approximately ¼ mile south of U.S. 50.

The circa 1920 school building is a one-story wood frame rural schoolhouse sited on a southwest facing slope overlooking the ranch lands and meadows of the Cimarron River Valley. Two outhouses also remain. Distant views include Fitzpatrick Mesa to the north, Blue Mesa summit to the east, High Mesa and Uncompahgre Peak to the south, and Poverty Mesa to the west. Natural grasses surround the building. There are several large deciduous and evergreen trees, and portions of a woven wire sheep fence fall within the boundary. Interesting features remaining on the property include a cistern, measuring approximately 8½' deep and 5' in diameter; a portion of an irrigation ditch that runs through the west side of the property; and the remnants of a playground merry-go-round.

The three contributing buildings on the property are in fair to good condition. Overall, Rimrock School exhibits integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The one-classroom school building is in good condition. It has a hipped roof with an approximately 20' long ridge oriented north to south. At one time, the roof was covered with red painted cedar shingles. The roof is now covered with corrugated galvanized steel. A narrow brick chimney penetrates the eastern slope of the roof. The foundation is of formed, large aggregate concrete. The original narrow shiplap siding and wood trim are painted white. The original tall, one-over-one double hung wood windows, set in simple wood frames, remain in place.

The school faces south and has a rectangular plan, measuring approximately 39' north to south and 29' east to west. Within this footprint, at the southeast corner there is an inset open entry porch, measuring approximately 7' x 8'. A single low wooden step on the east leads up to the wood floor of the porch where there is a wood storage box against the east wall. On the south facade, a five-across panel wood door leads into an open area that functioned as the cloakroom. Toward the west, there is a pair of windows.

On the west wall, there are three pairs of windows serving the classroom. No openings are on the north. On the east wall, there is a single window located toward the south end. A copy of an undated historic photograph shows two small window openings toward the north end of the east wall. The northern most appears to have been filled in, and the other opening was apparently enlarged to receive a single five-panel door that leads into the area now used as a kitchen.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Rimrock School, Gunnison County, CO
Rural School Buildings in Colorado - MPS

On the interior, what appear to be the original fiberboard walls and ceiling remain in place. Window and door frames are topped with simple cornices. A stage measuring approximately 8' x 20' was originally located at the north end of the classroom. It was removed at an unknown date, and its tongue and groove flooring was installed flush with the rest of the wood floor. Pegs for hanging coats remain in the cloakroom area. The former location of an early coal stove is marked by a remaining stovepipe. Although its original configuration is unconfirmed, the small room at the northeast corner that may have originally served as a library or teacher's quarters has functioned for many years as a kitchen. It includes a simple porcelain sink and a pass-through counter installed at an unknown date.

Outbuildings

The two small wood frame outhouses are located to the north of the school building. They have wood shingled shed roofs. Exact dates of construction are unknown.

The girls' outhouse is located close to the school and is in fairly good condition. The lap sided walls are painted white. The slope of its shed roof is oriented east to west. A photograph taken in 1980 shows the building as unpainted and the roof sloping north to south. The door opens to the west, and there are small framed openings high on the east and north walls.

The boys' outhouse is located near the north end of the property. It is in fair condition, and its shed roof slopes north to south. Its walls are of unpainted vertical board siding, the door opens to the west, and there is a small framed opening high on the north wall.

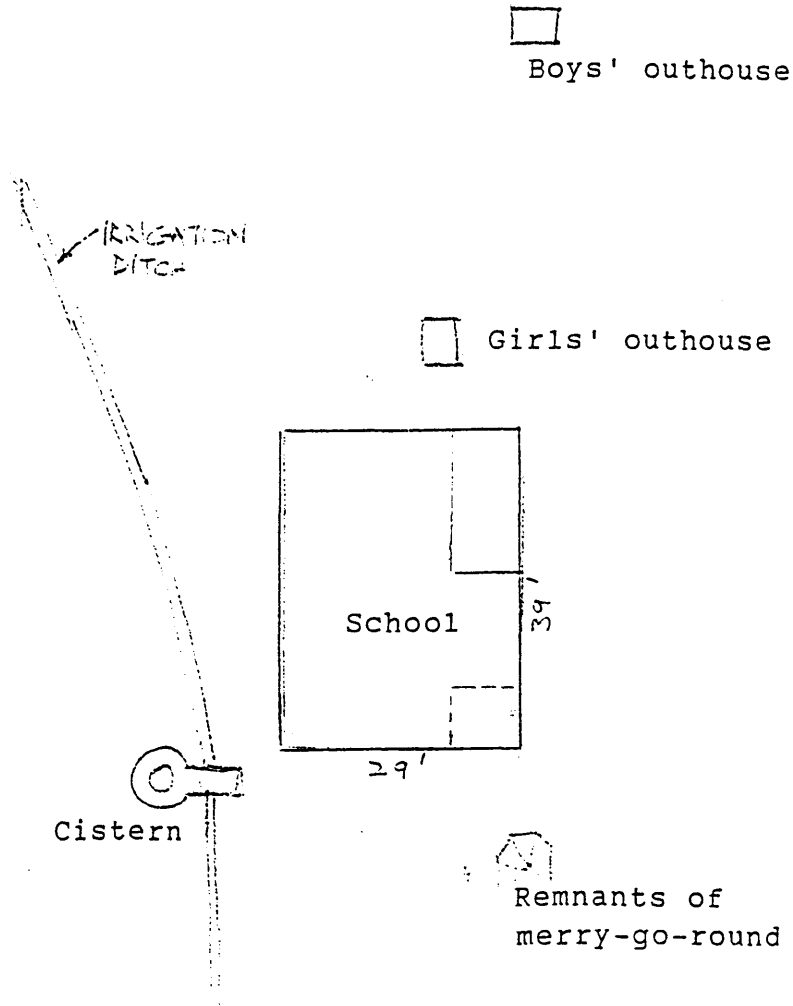
United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Rimrock School, Gunnison County, CO
Rural School Buildings in Colorado - MPS

ROUGH SKETCH MAP



NOT TO SCALE

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

Rimrock School, Gunnison County, CO
Rural School Buildings in Colorado - MPS

SIGNIFICANCE

Rimrock School is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Social History and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The nominated property meets the registration requirements of the rural schoolhouse property type as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Rural School Buildings in Colorado*.

Criterion A

The circa 1920 Rimrock School represents, in a nearly unaltered state, the simple one room rural schoolhouse which typically served the early educational and social needs of Colorado's often isolated ranching communities. Located in rugged country between the Curecanti National Recreation Area and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, the school played a role in the educational and social history of the Cimarron River Valley. After closing as an educational facility in May of 1946, it continued to serve for many years as the public gathering place for the surrounding ranching community. Located on a still rural site, overlooking surrounding meadows that were fenced to keep cattle out, the property remains able to convey its historic use.

Rimrock School District No. 29 was organized by local ranching families in 1916. In 1917, Rufus Berry donated land for a school at the western foot of Fitzpatrick Mesa in western Gunnison County approximately five miles east of Cimarron, in Montrose County. Construction of a log school building was apparently begun shortly after the land donation. The log school was viewed as a temporary building, with Miss Jessie Foster reportedly teaching a total of 21 students. Among the children in attendance were members of the Walker, Armitage, Vandenburg, Barnett, Richardson, Topliss, and Berry families.

Records indicate bids for a new building were requested in August of 1919, and the nominated wood frame schoolhouse was erected circa 1920, replacing the log structure as the local first through eighth grade educational facility. Plans called for the inclusion of a library and stage. Enrollments ranged from a low of 6 students in 1937 to a high of 16 in 1932. During the final year of operation, eight students were taught by Miss Marilyn Field. The usual year end picnic was held on May 27, 1946. Reflecting the accelerating statewide trend of school consolidation, a majority vote on August 29, 1946 approved the purchase of a bus, in conjunction with a neighboring district, in order to begin transporting the students to schools in Montrose.

From the time of its completion, the building served as the hub of social activities for the local ranching community. Dinners, dances, wedding celebrations, and holiday entertainment were among the most popular activities held there. After the building ceased to operate as an educational facility, members of the Cimarron Community Club continued to be responsible for its maintenance and use as a community meeting place. In 1980, the property was absorbed into the Montrose County School District REJ-1. It has not been used for several years and recently was sold to the current private owners.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

Rimrock School, Gunnison County, CO
Rural School Buildings in Colorado - MPS

Criterion C

Rimrock School is a virtually intact example of a variation of the rural schoolhouse property type. Its wood frame construction reflects its status as a second generation building, replacing an earlier log structure. The south facing recessed entry porch of the simple hipped roof building provided some protection from the area's severe winter climate, and the paired classroom windows are located on the west wall. Enhancing the educational program as well as the building's ability to function as a community gathering place, its one-classroom plan included space for a cloakroom, stage, and small library.

In addition to the high degree of integrity associated with the setting, the schoolhouse retains its original massing, shiplap siding, and wood framed double hung windows. The property's significance as a good example of the property type is further enhanced by the two outhouses remaining on the site.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 6

Rimrock School, Gunnison County, CO
Rural School Buildings in Colorado - MPS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

References

Appraisal, Arnie Butler & Co., Grand Junction, Co. August 15, 1998.

Doggett, Suzanne and Holly Wilson. "Rural School Buildings in Colorado," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation form. Colorado Historical Society, July 9, 1996, rev. March 1999.

Freeman, Dona. "Curecanti Ranch."

Gulliford, Andrew. *America's Country Schools*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1991.

Inventory Record, Colorado Cultural Resource Survey, September, 1980.

Montrose, Colorado Centennial, 1882-1982. Locally printed, 1982

Montrose Daily Press. March 22, 1990, April 5, 1990.

Rockwell, Noreatta Piatt. "The Early History of Gunnison County, Colorado Schools," unpublished master's thesis, Western State College, 1953, pp. 182-183.

Interviews

Interviews with the following local residents were conducted in 1998, 1999, and 2000:

Lee Hawk, former student, Cimarron, Co.

Albert Soderquist, former student, Montrose, Co.

Leo Veo, former student, Montrose, Co.

Marilyn Cox, Montrose County Historical Society, Montrose, Co.

Marjorie Topliss Cole, former student, Montrose, Co.

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Rimrock School, Gunnison County, CO
Rural School Buildings in Colorado - MPS

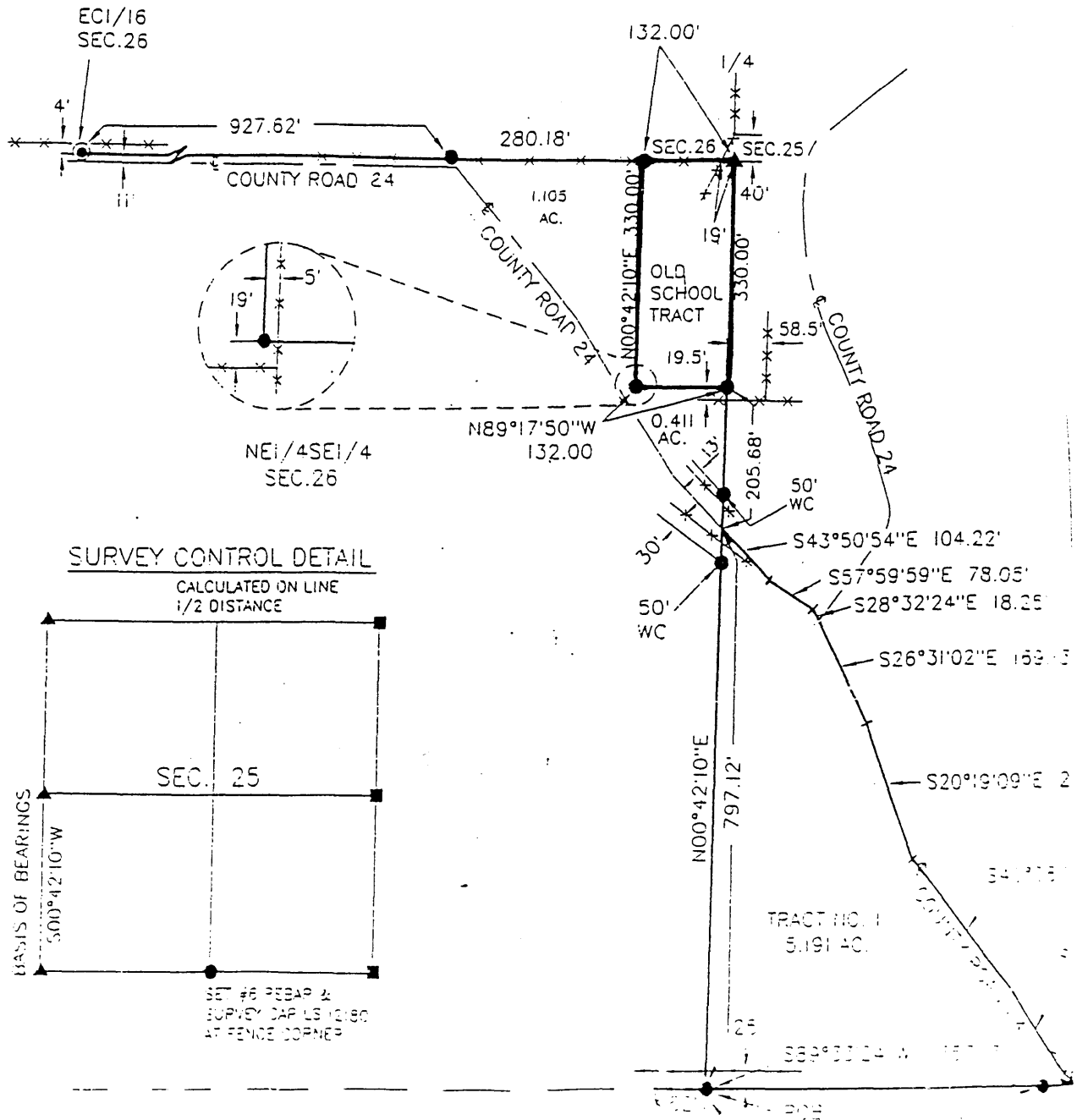
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses the original school site as indicated on the map below.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the parcel of land historically associated with the school.



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Rimrock School, Gunnison County, CO
Rural School Buildings in Colorado - MPS

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Name of Property: Rimrock School
Location: County Road 24, Gunnison County, Co.
Photographer: Eileen Kaser
Date of Photographs: May 13, 2000
Location of Negatives: 15355 68.00 Road, Montrose, Co. 81401

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
1	East and south sides , view northwest west
2	North side, view south, boys outhouse at left
3	West and north sides, view southeast
4	North side, view southeast, girls outhouse at left
5	South facade, view north
6	East and north sides, view southwest, March 2000
7	East side, view west, March 2000
8	North side, view south, March 2000
9	Foundation detail at northwest corner, view southeast, March 2000

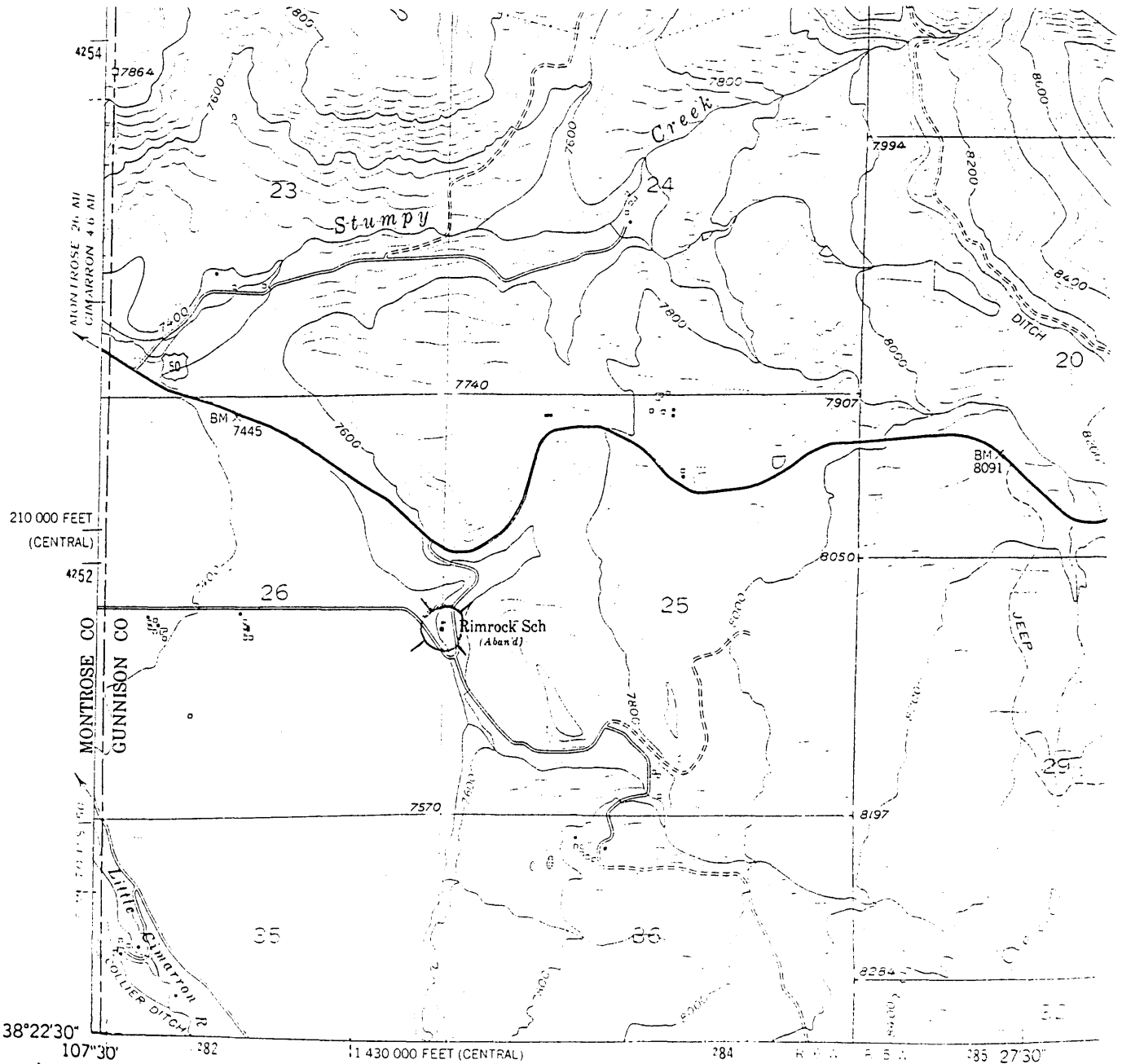
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Rimrock School, Gunnison County, CO
Rural School Buildings in Colorado - MPS

Section number Additional Materials Page 9

USGS MAP
Curecanti Needle, CO



(WASHBOARD ROCK)
4400 SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1956

