

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 determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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 any 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 Columbian School
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 700 N. 2nd. St. not for publication
city or town Raton vicinity
state New Mexico code NM county Colfax code 007 zip code 87740

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
[Signature] 2/7/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
New Mexico SHPO
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

Thereby 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): _____
Edson B. Beall 3/15/96
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the National Register

Columbian School

Name of Property

Colfax, NM

County and 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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Hist. & Arch. Resources of the New Deal: NM

Number of contributing resources previously listed the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

education/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

education/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Moderne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof asphalt

other concrete

Narrative Description

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

Columbian School

Name of Property

Colfax, NM

County and 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 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 achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

social history
education
architecture

Period of Significance

1939-1943

Significant Dates

1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Willard C. Kruger

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 Record #
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:

Columbian School

Colfax, NM

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

- 1. 113 15501170 14084840 3. 111 1111111 1111111
2. 111 1111111 1111111 4. 111 1111111 1111111

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 David Kammer, Ph.D
organization contract historian date Sept. 30, 1995
street & number 521 Aliso Dr. NE telephone (505) 266-0586
city or town Albuquerque state NM zip code 87108

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 district 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1Columbian School
Colfax County, NM

Description

Columbian School is a one-story elementary school with a rectilinear plan, a reinforced concrete frame and a flat roof. Modestly ornamented in the Moderne Style, the building has walls consisting of a smooth textured brown brick veneer with concrete capped parapets. The recessed front entry is located at the middle of a slightly stepped facade. Located behind the central portion of the building is a gymnasium/auditorium. A strip parking lot for teachers is located in front of the building on N. 2nd Street with residences lining the opposite side of the street. A playground extends behind the building. In 1950, additions were made at the southwest and northwest corners of the building, and in 1970 an addition was made at the northeast corner of the building. The additions, however, do not appreciably alter the historic appearance of the building's facade nor detract from its feeling as a New Deal property.

Although the original symmetrical facade of Columbian School was altered with the addition to the building's northern wing, the building conveys an appearance similar to when it was completed in 1939. Three classrooms, each marked by a grouping of five 1/1 double-hung aluminum windows with a fixed yellow-brown panel above and with projecting brick sills, flank the building's main entry to the south, and three flank it to the north. Recessed entries with double doors and small, slightly raised concrete porches lie at the end of both wings. A portal extends from the rear of the north wing to the classroom wing lying to the west. The main entry, consisting of double doors beneath a concrete lintel, is recessed with a slight infill of the previous portal on either side. Flanking it are two office spaces with roofs stepped slightly below the main roof line and with curved walls marked by four vertical fixed windows. Accessible from the foyer where the entry intersects the main corridor, these spaces house the nurse and principal's office.

The school's floor plan is consistent with the design used in schools built as New Deal projects in many New Mexico locales. It includes a central corridor flanked by classrooms. In back of the central portion of the building is a combination gymnasium/

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Columbian School
Colfax County, NM

Description (continued)

auditorium. The square brick chimney on the north side of the gymnasium marks the location of the school's mechanical room.

Columbian School is in excellent condition and, with its additions sympathetic to the original materials and plans of the building, continues to convey the feeling of a New Deal project. Raton voters approved a bond issue in 1994 that will permit renovation of the school's heating and electrical systems and the renovation of bathrooms while retaining the historical integrity of the building.

Statement of Significance

Columbian School, a WPA project undertaken and completed in 1939, was one of several school projects completed in Raton by the New Deal. Made possible as a part of the federal government's efforts to stimulate the nation's depressed economy through a massive public works program, the school is a good example of how the New Deal's public works projects affected the welfare of a local community by creating much-needed jobs. The project also resulted in bringing much-needed improvement to the community's educational facilities. It is eligible under Criterion A for its association with Raton's social history and education during the New Deal. Columbian School is also eligible under Criterion C as a good example of the plans, methods of construction, materials and workmanship New Deal projects employed in carrying out hundreds of school construction projects in New Mexico.

Despite the loss of jobs that the Depression had brought to Raton's principle industries, the coal mines and the railroad, the town had continued to grow and, by the 1930s, found that its two grade schools, Longfellow and Columbian Schools, both built in 1906, were overcrowded even with additions made to both buildings in 1923. The town's leaders actively pursued school construction projects seeing new schools as creating construction jobs and relieving the schools system's chronic overcrowding.

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Continuation Sheet**

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Columbian School
Colfax County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

After receiving grants for two PWA school projects in 1936 and 1938, Raton was authorized to construct two additional grade schools under WPA projects funded in July and November of 1938. The former, a \$53,000 appropriation, was for construction of a new Columbian School and the latter, a \$50,000 appropriation, was for the construction of a new Longfellow School. As these projects got under way, the Raton Range noted that the town's monthly WPA payroll was at least \$18,000, a considerable boon to its depressed economy.

Work began on Columbian School in January, 1939 with two shifts of workers totalling fifty men supervised by WPA foreman Burt Zimmerman. Some of the materials for the construction came from salvage recovered at the old Raton High School. With the foundation being laid in the cold of winter, Zimmerman devised a method to prevent the freshly laid concrete from freezing by wrapping pipes heated by a steam boiler around the concrete. By September, 1939 the school was ready to welcome students even though not all of the work had been completed. With four new schools, Raton's enrollment increased prompting E.E. Harrison, the school superintendent, to observe that many rural families were moving to the city "to give their children the advantage of the new buildings."

The plans for Columbian School were prepared by Willard C. Kruger, the state's WPA architect who had grown up in Raton, and Kenneth S. Clark, who worked with Kruger on the WPA staff and, in 1938, opened a practice with him. While it is unclear to what degree the architects' designs were influenced by local preferences, the Raton Range noted on February, 1939 that a local citizens group had requested that the veneer of the school be changed from stucco to brick, a change the committee viewed as an "improvement." The building's plans are similar to plans Kruger and his staff prepared for other schools around the state. Noteworthy of these plans were the standard classrooms flanking a central corridor design with a small gymnasium/auditorium attached to the rear of the building. As with these other school projects, the introduction of large windows providing natural

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Columbian School
Colfax County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

light, indoor plumbing, ventilation, heating system, and fire safety features such as outward-swinging double doors contributed to the modernization of Raton's schools.

Typical of other WPA projects, the Columbian School project was labor-intensive. Its extensive use of masonry including the curved walls, protruding sills, and concrete parapet coping furnish a good example of the workmanship and materials that marked New Mexico's New Deal schools.

Bibliography

Raton Education History (Vertical File). Courtesy of Richard Azar, Librarian, Arthur Johnson Memorial Library, Raton.

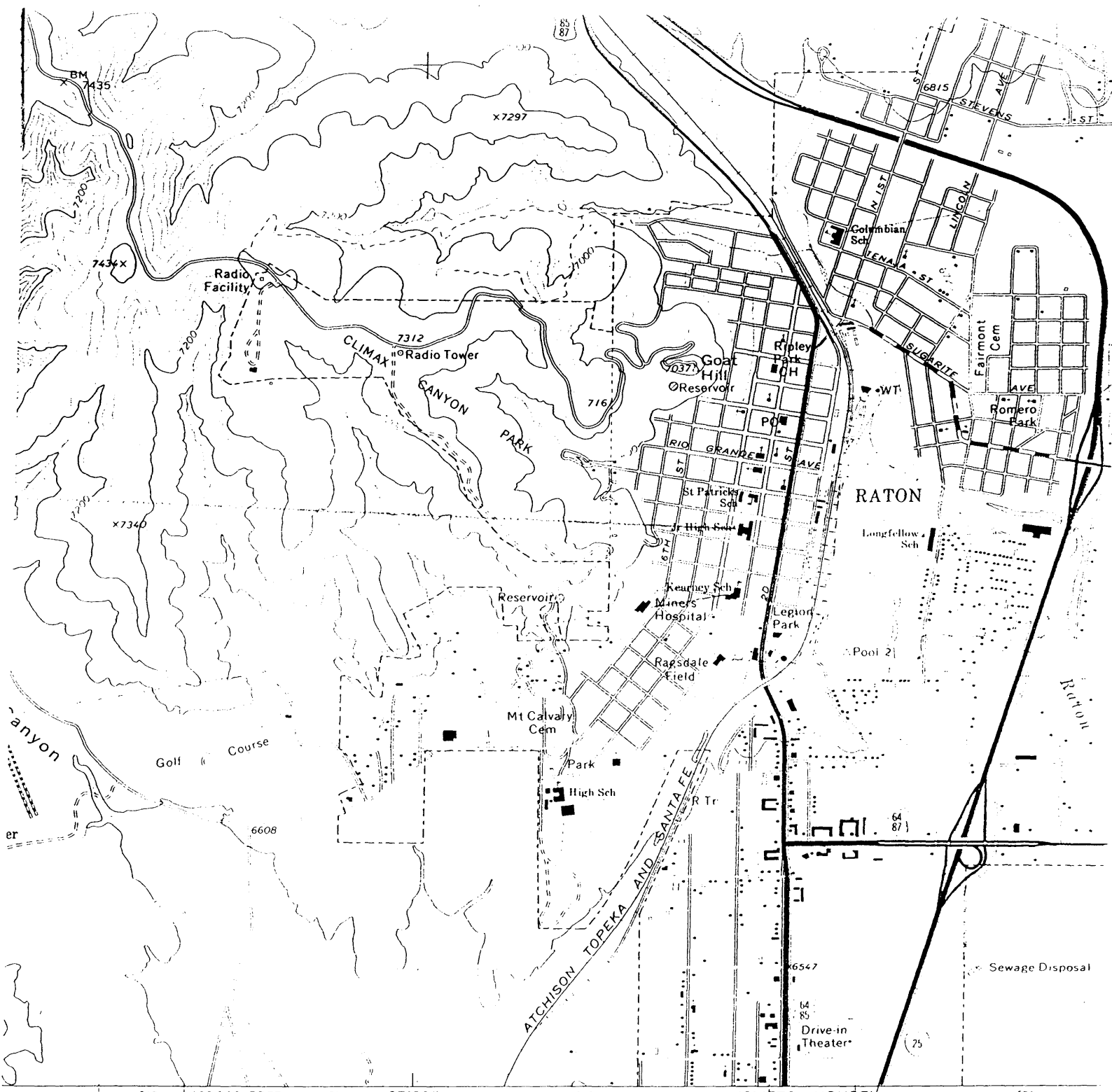
Raton Range. Various issues, 1939-1940.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 7-10 of Block 9 of the Fairview Addition.

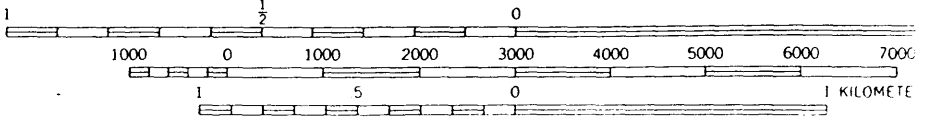
Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Columbian School.

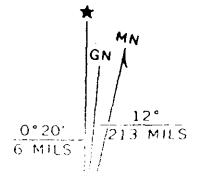


547 146000 FEET (N. MEX.) 27'30" 549 (CLIFTON HOUSE) MAXWELL 24 MI 551
 5157 IV SW

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



GRID AND 12° MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPILED WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST