NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Eads School Gymnasium

other names/site number 5KW.168

2. Location

street & number West 10th Street and Slater Street (northeast corner) N/A not for publication

city or town Eads N/A vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Kiowa code 061 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide _X_ local

Signature of certifying official/Title — Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer — Date 6/18/13

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ ___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

per Edson W. Beall — 8.20.13

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Eads School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

	private
X	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

X	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	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
1	0	**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/education-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/education-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Mission Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: BRICK
roof: METAL
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Located in the small eastern plains town of Eads, Colorado, the Eads School Gymnasium, one block west of the community's principal commercial thoroughfare, occupies a corner site within a complex of educational buildings and sports fields (Photograph 1). The 1929 Mission Revival-style gymnasium is a one-story, side gabled roof building consisting of a central, double-height rectangular wing featuring parapets on the east and west walls and stepped back, one-story, flat roof wings projecting on the east and west (Photographs 1 and 2). The concrete foundation rises toward the south, following the slight slope of the land. The walls of the gym are composed of variegated shades of yellow magnesium pressed brick laid in American bond, with contrasting dark brown brick laid in a variety of bonds elaborating the foundation, sill and lintel courses, entrance and window surrounds, tops and bases of projecting wall piers, and upper walls of the building. The gabled roof wing has standing seam metal roofing. A wide concrete sidewalk extends from the front of the building to the edge of West 10th Street, south of which is a residential neighborhood. West of the gymnasium, across paved Slater Street, are the grounds of the 1963 one-story red brick Eads High School, whose campus occupies an entire half-block. North of the building, across a wide area paved with concrete behind the gym, stand two one-story nonhistoric buildings associated with school operations.[1] Immediately east of the gym a gravel-covered school playground extends to the 1940 Eads Elementary School, whose lunch room wing projecting toward the west displays an arcade of windows influenced by the gymnasium design.[2]

Narrative Description

The front (south wall) of the one-story west wing has a metal downspout near the southwest corner and contains a wide window opening filled with concrete blocks at the west end and a flush pedestrian door at the east end. The center double-height wing is divided into five bays by six piers that continue the dark brown brick elaborative courses of the walls, with taller corner piers topped by orange brick caps framing the gable ends. The southwest corner pier features a black granite cornerstone inscribed with the beginning construction date of 1928, the names of the school superintendent and school board members, and the name of the architect (Photograph 3). The first bay at the west end displays an entrance with an arched metal fanlight-motif transom cover above flush double doors. The following four bays each contain an arched metal fanlight motif transom above paired, metal frame, multi-light windows with twelve lights (Photograph 4). The original window glass is embedded with chicken wire and has horizontal striations, while replacement lights are clear glass. Brick sills are sloping and topped with concrete. The window surrounds are elaborated with dark brown brick that extends to enframe the spandrels below, which display decorative brickwork consisting of alternating squares of stacked and soldier brick. The south wall of the one-story east wing includes twelve-light windows flanking paired twelve-light windows, as well as a metal downspout near the southeast corner.

The east wall of the one-story east wing contains, from the south end, paired twelve-light windows, a single twelve-light window, two entrances with flush doors and metal-covered transoms, a single twelve-light window, and a large window filled with concrete blocks (Photograph 5). A brick chimney with metal cap is found at the center of the roof of the east wing. The east wall of the center wing visible above the east wing has a center, covered, circular window.

The north wall of the east wing displays a metal downspout, a window opening filled with concrete blocks, a wider window opening filled with concrete blocks, and a twelve-light window (Photograph 6). The north wall of the center wing is of the same design as the front, with projecting wall piers creating five bays (Photographs 6 and 7). The four eastern bays contain large arched windows now filled with concrete blocks, while the final bay has double flush doors surmounted with

[1] The area north of the gym held other school related buildings, at one time including a house occupied by a couple employed by the school to teach, coach, and provide janitorial services. Further north were located the manual arts building and the bus garage, with buses on the west end and a band room on the east. These buildings are gone. J.R. and Norma Homan, Email to Tom and Laurie Simmons, 8 November 2012.

[2] The current Eads Elementary School, completed in 1940, sits on the site of an earlier high school that burned in December 1937. Bricks salvaged from that building were used in construction of the 1940 building. The flat roof lunch room wing of the elementary school displays five tall round arch openings along the south wall, mimicking the five arched windows of the south wall of the 1929 gymnasium.

a fanlight motif metal panel. The north wall of the west wing contains paired twelve-light windows toward the east and a small metal louvered vent and twelve-light window toward the west end (Photograph 7). A metal downspout is near the northwest corner.

The west wall of the west wing contains four evenly spaced, flat-headed windows filled with concrete blocks. The third window from the north end has a small metal vent (Photograph 8). The northwest and southwest corners of the wing are clad with metal. The west wall of the center wing above displays a central, covered up, circular window.

Interior

On the interior, the center gymnasium wing is open and features maple flooring laid north-south and painted with basketball court markings (Photographs 9 and 10). The gym floor is two steps below the entrances. The interior walls are clad with roughly textured plaster, and the suspended ceiling consists of 4' X 8' panels and wood battens. On the north and south walls, the entrances are shortened on the interior with horizontal boards above the doors. The original arched transoms are present, with the lights painted white. Doors at the northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest corners of the gym lead to rooms of the east and west wings, which house offices, lockers, storage, and weight rooms.

Alterations

The 1929 gymnasium has had no additions. Some windows are filled with concrete blocks, divided-light circular windows on the gable faces and transoms above the doors and round arch windows are covered with metal panels on the exterior, and flush doors replace the original paneled and glazed ones. Two chimneys at the west end of the building are gone, and the roofing is now metal instead of asphalt shingles. The raised stage on the interior is present behind a partition wall and is used for athletic equipment storage. The gym ceiling consists of suspended panels, and spaces within the east and west wings have been reconfigured.[3] Despite these alterations, the building maintains its historic character, is clearly recognizable as the 1929 gymnasium, and continues in its original function.

Integrity

The building retains integrity of location; it still stands on its original site within the school complex. The setting of the building is the same as it was at the end of the period of significance in 1963, when the new high school opened. The original design of the large building is still evident, including all original door and window openings, as well as the parapeted gables, wall piers, and one-story wings. The building displays integrity of workmanship reflecting the talents of local builders, the principal component of which is the elaborate brick masonry displaying several types of bonds and decorative brickwork. Integrity of materials is evident in the brick walls, although some of the windows have been filled with concrete blocks and the doors have been replaced. The interior retains its original maple flooring. The design and materials of the building and its placement within the school complex help it retain integrity of feeling, conveying the importance of school sports for the community, as does its continued use as a gymnasium. The building also retains its integrity of association, having been and continuing to be associated with the same school district and its students since its creation, and representing a tangible link to the educational and recreational aspirations of the community.

[3] An undated historic photograph (Figure 5) shows the school band sitting on risers in front of the stage, which is enclosed by auditorium curtains. The risers are no longer present.

Eads School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
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.)

- [X] 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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
EDUCATION
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance
1929-63

Significant Dates
1929

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Nieman, Elmer E.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance extends from 1929 (the year the gymnasium was completed) to 1963, in accordance with National Register guidelines.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The 1929 Eads School Gymnasium is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/ Recreation, Education, and Social History. The building is important in the area of Entertainment/Recreation for its history as the only school gymnasium in Eads from its construction until completion of the current high school in 1963. In the area of Education, the gymnasium is important not only for housing the physical education classes and school athletic teams of Eads, including the training of every student within the district, the building also accommodated other educational programs of the school, such as those of the Domestic Science/Home Economics, Music, and Drama departments considered a vital part of a modern curriculum at the time of its construction. In addition, many important school events, performances, and activities took place in the building, including concerts, plays, holiday programs, dances, and graduations. In the area of Social History, the gymnasium provided a venue for a wide variety of community social and civic activities and was used by a federal social welfare program during the Great Depression. Former Eads resident Kathleen Davisson observes that "there weren't many places in Eads to hold community events—at least not until the new courthouse was built with the community room! And that only for small crowds. So you really had only one choice for a community event—the gym."[4]

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Eads School Gymnasium is significant in the area of Entertainment/Recreation as a facility where all Eads students received physical training and junior and senior high athletes hosted other teams from the county and across the state. These sports contests attracted families from Eads and its surrounding agricultural community, as well as spectators from the hometowns of visiting teams, providing an important source of entertainment, recreation, and community pride in a somewhat isolated part of the state. Before erection of this building, most basketball games were played outside in good weather. The only athletic facility large enough for indoor basketball in Eads was the basement of the 1923 Eads Community Church, where competitions took place in inclement weather.[5] Erection of the building represented the growing belief among educators and the public that physical education was an important part of a well-rounded curriculum. The new gymnasium provided a modern, purpose-built, secular place for such school and community sports activities for the first time. The new facility provided advantages for athletic training and sports practices that led the Eads High School basketball team to win county and regional championships in the 1930s and reach the state playoffs in 1949. In addition, the gymnasium hosted the practices and competitions of the girls' basketball team, which constituted one of the few team sports allotted to women during the early twentieth century. During the period of significance, the building hosted activities associated with a wide range of sports, including football, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, track, and gymnastics.

The building is also significant in the area of Education for the role it played in hosting the physical training and team events of students. By the 1920s gymnasiums adequate for indoor instruction and team competitions were considered a vital component of a modern school, a factor that motivated the community to finance the building during difficult economic times. Importantly, the gymnasium also contained rooms for courses of study in Domestic Science, also considered to be essential to the high school curriculum for girls. Within its walls generations of young women learned about cooking, sewing, and family life. The building also housed important activities of the school music and drama programs, including practices and concerts of the choirs and band, as well as plays and other presentations. The large open gymnasium made it a perfect location for school events such as dances, holiday celebrations, assemblies, and graduations. In addition, the gym initially provided space for storage and maintenance of the school buses necessary for student transportation in the agricultural areas of the district. The building's educational importance increased after the adjacent 1916 high school building burned in 1937, when the school district put it into service for high school classes until a new elementary-high school was completed in 1940. The gymnasium continues to serve the students of Eads as a physical education and weight training facility, as well as the location of special events such as graduations, musical and drama productions, school assemblies, cheerleading practice, and proms. Eads teacher Kelly Courkamp emphasizes that "literally every single student that goes to school in Eads has some sort of interaction with that gym, so it really does hold a special place in the hearts of decades of alumni as well as current students."[6]

[4] Kathleen Davisson, Email to Marilyn Quinn, 11 November 2012.
[5] Roleta D. Teal and Betty Lee Jacobs, comp., *Kiowa County* (Eads, Colorado: Kiowa County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), 319.
[6] Kelly Courkamp, Eads, Colorado, email to Thomas H. and R. Laurie Simmons, 11 January 2013.

The gymnasium is significant in the area of Social History the role it played as one of the centers of community life in Eads, not only attracting many residents to view basketball games and other athletic competitions and school programs, but also providing a location for events such as family gatherings, citizen basketball games, county exhibitions, election activities, and programs sponsored by local organizations. Previously, the only building with a space large enough for substantial group gatherings was the basement of the Eads Community Church. The school district welcomed the use of the gymnasium for community activities, and one of the first events held in the building was the 1930 Eads Corn and Poultry Show, an event intended to bolster the agricultural economy. The building is also important its association with Depression era social welfare programs, when its kitchen became a site for preparing surplus foods to supplement student lunches as part of Works Progress Administration (WPA) relief activities. Other events taking place in the building during its long history have included concerts, family parties, elections, town team sports, 4-H programs, and the programs of local fraternal groups. As J.R and Norma Homan observe, "The gym was the center of school/town activities."[7]

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Founded in 1887 along the route of the Missouri Pacific Railroad through Kiowa County, Eads developed as a service and supply center for surrounding farms and ranches and became the county seat in 1901. School District 1 of Kiowa County, representing Eads and vicinity, was established in 1889.[8] The district's school-age population grew dramatically during the early twentieth century as new homesteaders moved to the area and the town grew in response. In April 1916 Eads proudly celebrated the opening of a new two-story brick high school, which also included classrooms for younger children. Rapid growth within the school system continued into the 1920s, increasing the number of younger students and requiring the revision of class space and elimination of some high school courses. [9]

In 1924 local residents applauded the state's decision to accredit the high school, but worried that lack of space in the building already hampered students' progress. The *Kiowa County Press* judged better student facilities were needed, including space for Manual Training and Domestic Science. The newspaper suggested citizens should plan for a new or enlarged and reconfigured school with facilities such as a library, auditorium, hot lunch room and spacious high school rooms and more teachers offering an enriched curriculum, including Domestic Science and Manual Training. In the early years of the 1920s local residents believed a bright future lay just ahead.[10]

After World War I many educators and the public at large considered physical education and team sports important components in a well-rounded education. Interscholastic athletics for boys and girls expanded in response. During the 1920s many school systems built new, up-to-date facilities, including gymnasiums, and adopted physical education as a component of the curriculum. Educational psychologists stressed the idea that physical education contributed to the intellectual and social development of students, and many states passed laws requiring physical training.[11] Although some still considered girls' athletics "unladylike," the 1920s saw increasing female participation in competitive sports.[12] With improved roads, athletic teams could more easily travel from one town to another for competitions. As in other communities across the country, in the 1920s families in Eads believed an up-to-date educational system should include a modern athletic facility for students, as well as a properly equipped space for domestic science classes. Despite the economic distress of the agricultural economy during the period, local residents supported the construction of a new gymnasium with wings for Domestic Science and bus maintenance and storage.

Planning and Construction

At its annual meeting in the spring of 1927, the school district received authorization to erect "a building for use as a garage and storage for busses, as a Manual Training and Domestic Science and gymnasium building."[13] The school

[7] J.R. and Norma Homan, Email to Thomas H. and R. Laurie Simmons, 8 November 2012.
[8] Colorado State Archives, "Kiowa County School Districts," colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/schools/1kiowaco.htm (accessed 6 November 2012).
[9] *Kiowa County Press*, 21 April 1916, 3.
[10] *Kiowa County Press*, 27 June 1924, 1 and 19 December 1924, 7.
[11] *Gale Encyclopedia of Education: Overview of Physical Education*, http://www.answers.com/topic/overview-of-physical-education (accessed 5 November 2012).
[12] Interscholastic Athletics, "Social and Educational Benefits of Athletics," http://www.faqs.org/childhood/In-Ke/Interscholastic-Athletics-html (accessed 5 November 2012).
[13] *Kiowa County Press*, 3 June 1927, 1.

board received this power with the precise stipulation that it not exceed the specifically allocated amount for construction, which utilized $5,000 saved in the district budget in both 1926 and 1927.[14] With economic considerations in mind, the school board purchased used brick and steel from the Lamar Sugar Factory and had it transported to Eads for the new building. This recycling of materials saved half of the cost of the steel and a substantial part of the brick expense. As the *Kiowa County Press* observed, "While in the face of present conditions there is some doubt as to the advisability of going very strong on such expenditures the Board considered it wise to purchase these two items … while the saving could be made."[15] In mid-August 1928 the school district requested bids for completion of a concrete foundation on the high school grounds to be based on plans filed at the town's Foster Lumber Company provided by the building's architect, Elmer E. Nieman.[16]

Elmer Earnest Nieman, was born on 13 March 1890 in Aurora, Indiana. He moved with his parents to Kentucky, where he obtained worked as a draftsman for an architect by the age of 20.[17] By 1917 he lived in Colorado Springs, where he was employed as an architectural draftsman for Thomas P. Barber, a prominent local architect. In 1920 Nieman served as a juror for a competition to design the plan and equipment for a model kitchen sponsored by the Hoosier Manufacturing Company.[18] In 1921 he received a license to practice architecture, and three years later the city directory identified Nieman as a "designer" with Barber.[19] He established his own architecture office in the city in 1924. In 1930 the architect drew the plans for the First Christian Church in Eads, donating his labor.[20] Nieman is also credited with the design of buildings at the School for the Deaf and Blind (with other architects) and a "Spanish type" pavilion at Monument Valley Park, both in Colorado Springs. About 1927 he married Zida M. Nask, who died in December 1931 at age 30. Nieman passed away in Colorado Springs at age 42, on 23 September 1932.

By mid-September local contractors Merle Mahan and George F. Morton and their crew finished the foundation, which along with the footing included steel bar reinforcement.[21] Local citizens recall Calvin A. Benner (1864-1936) and his son, Bill, helped build the gymnasium (see Figure 1).[22] Calvin Benner operated a wheat farm in Kansas before moving his family in covered wagons to a Kiowa County homestead northeast of Eads in 1910. He served on the Eads School Board for several terms and drove a Model T Ford school bus (or a sled with a horse team in snow) for the district. Benner worked as a horseshoer and blacksmith; it is possible he fabricated some of the metal components of the building, such as the roof trusses.[23]

Of utmost concern to the local community and school officials was that the construction be fireproof and economical. On 19 March 1929 the school district laid the cornerstone of the gym. *The Kiowa County Press* contained a brief mention of the event, indicating that issues of the high school newspaper with information relating to the nation, state, county, town, and school were placed in a tin box behind the stone. The article noted, "If in many years to come the building is torn down this record will be of a great interest."[24] The black granite stone indicates A.W. Hinds served as superintendent when the building was erected, and school board members included Fred W. Eder, George B. Black, and J.C. Miller. Architect E.E. Nieman's name is also inscribed.

Opening and Use of the Gymnasium

Students began using the new building in the fall of 1929, with girls' athletics playing the first basketball game of the year in the facility on 7 October (see Figures 2 through 4). The *Kiowa County Press* reminded residents the hard maple waxed floor would require students to wear tennis shoes or heavy socks to prevent slipping accidents and protect the surface. The district planned to arrange the daily schedule so that every student and the teams would have a supervised play

[14] *Kiowa County Press*, 3 June 1927, 1.
[15] *Kiowa County Press*, 3 June 1927, 1.
[16] *Kiowa County Press*, 17 August 1928, 1.
[17] U.S. Census for Paducah Ward 4, McCracken, Kentucky, 1900 and 1910.
[18] "Competition for Plan and Equipment of a Model Kitchen," *American Architect & Architecture*, 118(1920): 748.
[19] *Pencil Points*, 2(June 1921)6: 35.
[20] Teal and Jacobs, *Kiowa County*, 341.
[21] Mahan and Morton were the only contractors in Eads listed in the 1930 U.S. Census; Harley W. Armentrout and George F. Morton were the only builders listed. *Kiowa County Press*, 21 September 1928, 1; U.S. Census for Eads, Colorado, 1930.
[22] William "Bill" Benner (1905-1980) later served on the school board, drove the school bus, worked at the grain elevator, served as undersheriff, delivered mail, worked for the Colorado Interstate Gas Company, and was City Engineer in Eads.
[23] Teal and Jacobs, *Kiowa County*, 278.
[24] *Kiowa County Press*, 29 March 1929, 4.

period in the gym. Between recess and athletic periods, the gym would be in use almost all day by the twelve grades of the district. In November the community looked forward to the first league basketball game between Eads and Sheridan Lake.[25] The school administration planned to be "as accommodating as possible" in permitting the public to utilize and hold events in the new building.[26]

As intended, the building also included space for storage and repair of school buses, which were placed in the garage by the school mechanic, a Mr. Anderson. He also taught a small auto mechanic class whose students assisted in installing a new gas tank, building a mechanic's bench, and placing an engine hoist in proper position. The proper repair and maintenance of school buses was important to families of the district, as many county students traveled long distances to attend high school. An early photograph of the gymnasium shows all of the school buses lined up in front of the building.[27]

Although the gymnasium opened for use in the fall of 1929, the district felt that some planned but nonessential elements of the construction could be delayed due to lack of funds.[28] In January 1930 the *Kiowa County Press* presented details of the architecture obtained from the school district. The article stressed the construction materials being "nearly as fireproof as possible," including steel window frames and heavy steel roof trusses. A 400-square-foot space in the west wing housed seven school buses, two pits, a work bench, and a cement slab also used as a wash rack. The bus storage and repair functions later moved to a separate building. Former students recall the west area housing boys' lockers, the showers, and the coach's office.[29] Within the gymnasium, bleachers occupied 600 square feet, while 2,400 square feet provided room for "physical development, student games, community uses . . . and a seating space for audiences at school programs." The elevated stage at the east end of the gym featured a variety of lighting and was regarded as "a much needed addition to the school plant." The east wing contained 800 feet with a Domestic Science room to be equipped with sinks and appliances for cooking and sewing. This wing also functioned as a preparation area for dramatic and musical productions.[30]

The gymnasium played an important role in the lives of Eads residents because it served as a place for basketball games and other school activities that attracted students and the community. Both high school and junior high basketball and wrestling teams, including A (first string) and B teams practiced in the building. In both 1929 and 1930 the basketball team won the county championship. In 1930 Eads entered the Arkansas Valley Basketball League, and the Eads team became league co-champions in 1939.[31] Johnny Holcomb notes all sports teams used the gym lockers, including football, basketball, wrestling, and track. In 1949 the first Eads basketball team reached the state basketball playoffs.[32] During games and other events, a concession stand operated by the junior class served refreshments out of the north door next to the stage, which led to the home economics room and kitchen.[33] "We used a tub of ice to cool down soda pop in glass bottles, sold candy bars and other health food," recalls Wally Mosher.[34] Kathleen Davis reports this concession stand made money "hand over fist."[35]

As noted above, girls' athletic teams and classes also utilized the gym. School athletics included a girls' basketball team in the 1920s and 1930s. The girls won the county basketball championship in 1929 and entered the Arkansas Valley Basketball League two years later. Girls' basketball was not part of the school's athletic program during the 1940s-1960s. Although the girls did not have a basketball team in those years, Lawanda Allee, who graduated in 1961, remembers

[25] *Kiowa County Press*, 15 November 1929, 1.
[26] *Kiowa County Press*, 11 October 1929, 1.
[27] Such attention to the school buses seemed prescient two years later when children riding on a makeshift bus to the Pleasant Valley School in extreme eastern Kiowa County were trapped in a disastrous blizzard. *Kiowa County Press*, 11 October 1911, 1.
[28] The district continued to add furnishings and equipment to the building for some time.
[29] Marilyn Quinn, Denver, Email to Thomas H. and R. Laurie Simmons, 1 November 2012; J.R. and Norma Homan, Email to Tom and Laurie Simmons, 8 November 2012.
[30] In January 1930 this wing had the necessary plumbing and wiring for home economics, but awaited the appliances and furnishings necessary for such classes. *Kiowa County Press*, 10 January 1930, 1.
[31] Teal and Jacobs, *Kiowa County*, 319.
[32] Players on the team included the Wiser brothers, Doug Smith, D.L. Weeks, John Forest, and Damon Berry. Johnny Holcomb, Email to Marilyn Quinn, 1 November 2012
[33] Laurene Jones Aldrich, Email to Thomas H. and R. Laurie Simmons, 1 November 2012.
[34] Mosher, email to Simmons, 2 November 2012.
[35] Davisson, Email to Quinn, 11 November 2012.

learning some gymnastic skills in the gym and that class members offered a performance night for the community to demonstrate their talents.[36]

In the Domestic Science/Home Economics wing, generations of young women learned about cooking, sewing, and taking care of families. In addition to traditional lessons, Lawanda Allee reported receiving special classes focusing on the impact a food's appearance had on the perception of its flavor. For example, students made green corn bread and purple milk to test their appeal. The wing contained a north room for cooking, sewing, and lectures, while the south was for trying on garments and served as the dressing area for plays. Students of the 1950s and 1960s remember Doris Lessenden as the home economics and music teacher.

Laurene Jones Aldrich describes the gym as "the center of community activities." She lists plays, band concerts, the annual Christmas program featuring Santa Claus, baccalaureate, graduation, cheerleading practice, and tumbling classes occurring there.[37] Lawanda Allee recalls freshman initiation being held in the gym, an activity which included some hazing until a senior brought a cattle prod, "which was not condoned at all."[38] Assemblies of the school viewed traveling educational programs a few times each year, including musical and scientific presentations. Kalthleen Davisson remembers one assembly that included "an octopus that had been dead a very long time, but preserved for all to see and marvel and smell!"[39] Valentine box suppers held in the building featured males bidding on the boxes and then eating with whoever made the food.[40] Proms, designed by the juniors for the seniors, were formal affairs with themes such as "An Evening in Paris."[41] Choir and band concerts took place in the gym at Christmas and in the spring, and a pep band played at games (see Figures 5 and 6). Junior and senior classes staged dramatic presentations.[42] Dances held in the building, including popular "sock hops," required everyone to wear socks so the maple floor was not damaged.

As a junior in high school, Wally Mosher was hired as assistant to the head school custodian, working in the building when school was not in session and during the summer. He participated in sanding and resealing the gym floor each summer and replacing window panes damaged by basketballs. He believes the original window glass was chosen to prevent people from standing and watching a game or other event without paying the entrance fee. When events took place on the stage, he moved chairs from the cafeteria and from storage in the gym to the floor, which supplemented bleacher seating. During basketball games, chairs were placed on the stage for additional seating.

Local organizations and families also made good use of the building. In January 1930 the Eads Corn and Poultry Show occupied the gym with exhibits of chickens and corn products, hoping to stimulate greater profits for local farmers.[43] During the same month, a sacred music concert held in the gym attracted about 100 people.[44] Laurene Jones Aldrich's father, the International Harvester dealer in town, sponsored the company's Family Parties in the gym. International Harvester paid a troupe of entertainers to visit rural communities and provide an evening of entertainment in the form of a variety show. Mr. Jones donated refreshments such as donuts and bottled soda pop.[45] Some recall elections and vote counting held in the gymnasium. In February 1951, a large crowd attended a presentation on ways to increase precipitation, including cloud seeding.[46]

Eads adult "town teams" played basketball and volleyball games on nights when no school activities were scheduled. Once a year the gym hosted the Donkey Basketball Game, which involved putting rubber boots on diapered donkeys ridden by competing teams. The Lions Club's minstrel show featuring local businessmen as entertainers was another popular event.[47] Speech and talent contests and 4-H style shows and exhibits also occurred in the gym.[48]

[36] Lawanda Allee, Email to Thomas H. and R. Laurie Simmons, 1 November 2012.
[37] Laurene Jones Aldrich, Email to Thomas H. and R. Laurie Simmons, 1 November 2012.
[38] Lawanda Allee, Email to Thomas H. and R. Laurie Simmons, 1 November 2012.
[39] Davisson, Email to Quinn, 11 November 2012.
[40] Loy Jones, Email to Thomas H. and R. Laurie Simmons, 6 November 2012.
[41] Allee, Email to Simmons, 1 November 2012.
[42] Leann Scroggins, Email to Thomas H. and R. Laurie Simmons, 2 November 2012.
[43] *Kiowa County Press*, 10 January 1930, 1.
[44] *Kiowa County Press*, 24 January 1930, 1.
[45] Laurene Jones Aldrich, Fort Collins, Colorado, Email to Thomas H. and R. Laurie Simmons, 1 November 2012.
[46] *Kiowa County Press*, 23 February 1951, 1.
[47] Wally Mosher, Email to Thomas H. and R. Laurie Simmons, 2 November 2012.
[48] Janette Peterson Kochis, Email to Marilyn Quinn, 6 November 2012.

Nutritionists asserted a connection between hot lunch food and improved mental and physical development during the early twentieth century. As early as 1917, hot lunches were offered one day a week to high school pupils by Domestic Science students at Eads.[49] By the 1920s the district hired a local woman to manage a regular hot lunch program for pupils.[50] During the Great Depression, the kitchen in the gymnasium's Domestic Science wing was used to prepare surplus commodities to supplement lunches brought by students. As part of a nationwide New Deal program funded through the Works Progress Administration (WPA), hot lunches were provided to all school children who wished to participate. During the Depression years, milk was a luxury for many students, as were other wholesome products. People working with children believed that providing them with a nutritious meal allowed them to become better students.[51]

The gym also played another important role in the educational life of Eads after the high school building burned in December 1937 (see Figure 4). Before a new building was completed in 1939, many high school classes met in the building. When the new high school opened to the west in 1963, the gymnasium continued to serve students. Johnny Holcomb remembers the wrestling team using the gym at that time.

The Eads School Gymnasium continues to be used by older students today for weight training and as a physical education facility for elementary school students. The building remains an important component of the Kiowa County School District RE-1 educational campus in the north part of Eads. Students in kindergarten through fifth grades use the gym every day. The building also houses junior and senior high school athletic practices, youth basketball tournaments, and other activities. As Kathleen Davisson comments, for anyone who has lived in Eads "gosh, there are so many 'Old Gym' memories."[52]

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[49] *Kiowa County Press*, 9 March 1917, 8.
[50] *Kiowa County Press*, 6 June 1922, 5.
[51] Ellen Woodward, WPA Assistant Administrator, "Hot Lunches for a Million School Children," National Archives, WPA Papers, Record Group 69, Series 737, Box 8, http://newdeal.feri.op/works/wpa02.htm (accessed 16 November 2009).
[52] Courkamp, Email, 11 January 2013; Davisson, Email, 11 November 2012.

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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 # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
_X_ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: Eads High School
History Colorado

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 5KW.168

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

The UTM reference point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

(NAD 27)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	13	693447	4261534	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The block on which the gymnasium is located is not subdivided into lots. The nominated area is shown on the included to-scale sketch map and is described as follows: on the south, the north curb of West 10th Street; on the west, the east curb of North Slater Street; on the north, the center joint of the sidewalk between the gymnasium and the building to the north (12' 3" north of the foundation of the gymnasium); and on the east, the east edge of the sidewalk (4' 11" east of the foundation of the gymnasium).

Eads School Gymnasium | Kiowa, Colorado
Name of Property | County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated area encompasses the area historically associated with the gymnasium.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, Historians (for the owner)
organization Front Range Research Associates, Inc. date 1 February 2013
street & number 3635 West 46th Avenue telephone 303-477-7597
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80211
e-mail frraden@msn.com website www.frhistory.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Eads School Gymnasium
City or Vicinity: Eads
County: Kiowa **State:** Colorado
Photographer: Thomas H. Simmons
Date Photographed: Various (see individual photograph information)
Digital Files: CO_Kiowa_EadsSchoolGymnasium_0001 through 0010 (included on archival CD-ROM)

Description of Photograph(s), number, camera direction, and date photographed:

1 of 10, CO_Kiowa_EadsSchoolGymnasium_0001, front (south) and west walls, view northeast, August 2009.

2 of 10, CO_Kiowa_EadsSchoolGymnasium_0002, front (south) and east walls, view northwest, August 2009.

3 of 10, CO_Kiowa_EadsSchoolGymnasium_0003, cornerstone and doors on front (south) wall, view northeast, September 2012.

4 of 10, CO_Kiowa_EadsSchoolGymnasium_0004, window detail on front (south) wall, view north, September 2012.

5 of 10, CO_Kiowa_EadsSchoolGymnasium_0005, east wall, view west-southwest, August 2009.

6 of 10, CO_Kiowa_EadsSchoolGymnasium_0006, rear (north) wall from east end, view southwest, August 2009.

7 of 10, CO_Kiowa_EadsSchoolGymnasium_0007, rear (north) wall from west end, view southeast, September 2012.

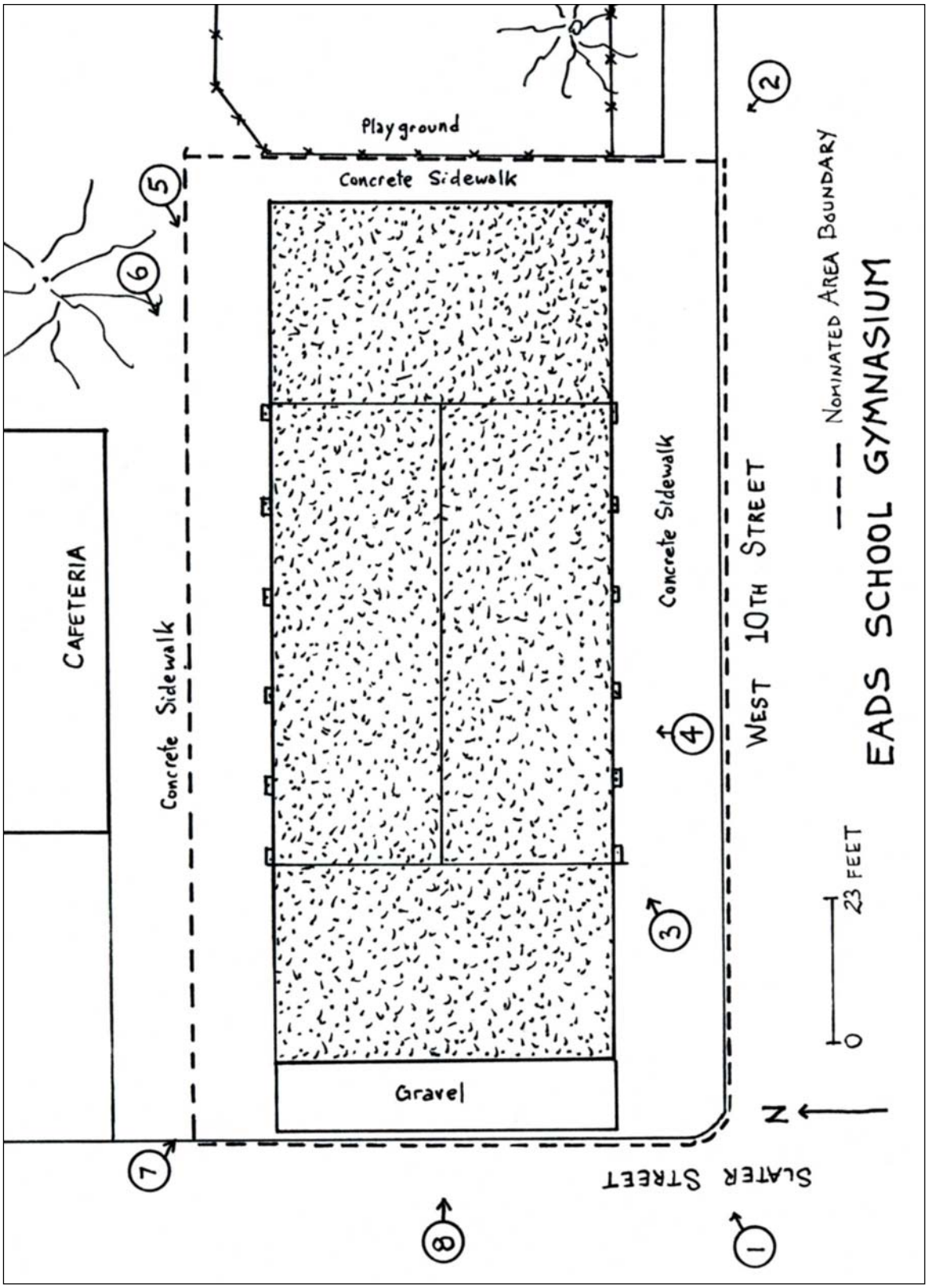
8 of 10, CO_Kiowa_EadsSchoolGymnasium_0008, west wall, view east, August 2009.

9 of 10, CO_Kiowa_EadsSchoolGymnasium_0009, interior of gymnasium toward former stage, view southeast, September 2012.

10 of 10, CO_Kiowa_EadsSchoolGymnasium_0010, interior of gymnasium toward west end, view west, September 2012.

Eads School Gymnasium | Kiowa, Colorado
Name of Property | County and State

SKETCH MAP

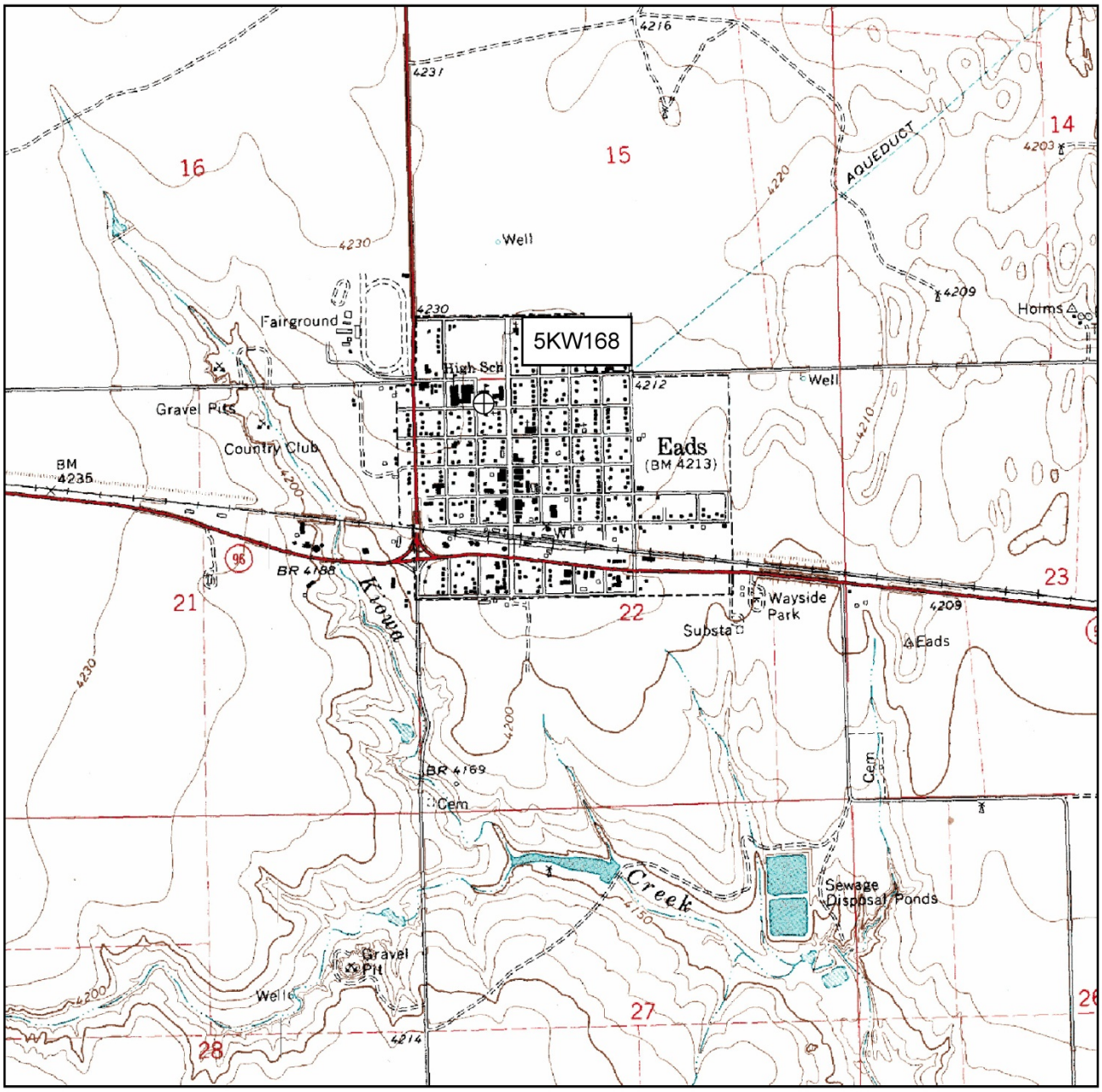


Numbers in circles with arrows indicate photograph locations and camera directions.

Eads School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Kiowa, Colorado
County and State

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Eads, Colo., Colorado
7.5 Minute Series



The crosshair indicates the location of the nominated resource. SOURCE: Extract of U.S. Geological Survey, Eads, Colo., 7.5 minute quadrangle map (Denver: U.S. Geological Survey, 1968).

Eads School Gymnasium | Kiowa, Colorado
Name of Property | County and State

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH/FIGURE LOG

1 of 6, Workmen pose in front of the unfinished gymnasium in this ca. 1929 view northwest. Courtesy of Eads High School, photograph collection, undated.

2 of 6, The finished gymnasium is shown in this early view northeast. Note the gasoline pump alongside the south wall and the "EADS COLO" with north arrow and windsock on the roof as aids to aviators. Courtesy Eads High School, photograph collection, undated.

3 of 6, This view west-northwest from West 10th Street provides another perspective on the completed gymnasium. Courtesy of Eads High School, photograph collection, Lewis collection, undated.

4 of 6, This pre-1937 view (northwest) from the intersection of Maine and 10th streets illustrates the location of the gymnasium in relation to the old high school (right). Courtesy of Eads High School, photograph collection, undated.

5 of 6, The Eads School band poses in front of the stage inside the gymnasium (view east). Courtesy of Eads High School, photograph collection, undated.

6 of 6, The Eads High School Mixed Chorus rehearses on bleachers inside the gymnasium (view west-southwest). Courtesy of Eads High School, 1963 yearbook photograph.

Figure 1. Workmen pose in front of the unfinished gymnasium in this ca. 1929 view northwest. Courtesy of Eads High School, photograph collection, undated.

Figure 2. The finished gymnasium is shown in this early view northeast. Note the gasoline pump alongside the south wall and the “EADS COLO” with north arrow and windsock on the roof as aids to aviators. Courtesy Eads High School, photograph collection, undated.

Figure 3. This view west-northwest from West 10th Street provides another perspective on the completed gymnasium. Courtesy of Eads High School, photograph collection, Lewis collection, undated.

Figure 4. This pre-1937 view (northwest) from the intersection of Maine and 10th streets illustrates the location of the gymnasium in relation to the old high school (right). Courtesy of Eads High School, photograph collection, undated.

Figure 5. The Eads School band poses in front of the stage inside the gymnasium (view east). Courtesy of Eads High School, photograph collection, undated.

Figure 6. The Eads High School Mixed Chorus rehearses on bleachers inside the gymnasium (view west-southwest). Courtesy of Eads High School, 1963 yearbook photograph.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

EADS QUADRANGLE
COLORADO—KIOWA CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

CO - KIOWA COUNTY - EADS SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

UTM (NAD 27)
Z 13
E 693447
N 4261534

EADS SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

EADS SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
EADS, KIOWA COUNTY, CO

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Colorado coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 13, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

UTM GRID AND 1968 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
U. S. Route
State Route

COLORADO
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

EADS, COLO.
N3822.5—W10245/7.5

1968

AMS 5460 IV NE—SERIES V877

ERECTED
A. D. 1928
SCHOOL BOARD
FRED W. EDER
GEORGE B. BLACK
J. C. MILLER
A. W. HINDS
SUPERINTENDENT
ELMER E. NIEMAN
ARCHITECT

STOP