NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

421

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.

RECEIVED 2280
JUN - 2 2014
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Coal Creek School
Other names/site number: 5RB.3575
Name of related multiple property listing:
Rural School Buildings in Colorado
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 617 County Road 6
City or town: Meeker State: CO County: Rio Blanco
Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: X

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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___B X C X D

5/28/14

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer **Date**
History Colorado, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
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:) _____

for Edson H. Beall 7.18.14

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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.)

Building(s) [X]

District [ ]

Site [ ]

Structure [ ]

Object [ ]

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(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.)
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.) Principal exterior materials of the property:
Stone, wood, metal, stucco

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The 1892 Coal Creek School is located about five and one-half miles east of the town of Meeker, Colorado on approximately one acre of land. The rectangular-plan school is constructed of locally quarried stone and wood. It sits on a slight knoll surrounded by agricultural land, with the closest house about 300 yards to the northeast of the school property. The school grounds are covered with predominately native plants and enclosed with a wire fence. The school is near the middle of the property, with privies to the direct north and a horse shed to the northeast of the school. A concrete cistern near the school's front door has not been in use for over 60 years. Coal Creek School has windows on all sides and the south front gable is covered with wooden shingles in a decorative pattern.

Narrative Description

Setting

Coal Creek School sits on a small knoll overlooking Agency Park in the White River valley. Views to the south and west are of open range, hay meadows, small sandstone geological formations, the river and small tributaries. Approximately two miles to the northwest rises the Meeker Dome, an anticlinal uplift geological feature, which is the site of several abandoned oil and gas exploratory wells dating from the 1920s and later. South of the property, Coal Creek flows to the west before it joins the White River. North and east of the school property are a single residential property, more agricultural lands and the southern reaches of the Danforth Hills, an area long associated with coal mining.[1]

[1] Gale, Hoyt S. *Coal Fields of the Danforth Hills and Grand Hogback in Northwestern Colorado.* U.S. Gelogical Survey, 1906. http://pubs.usgs.gov/bul/0316e/report.pdf accessed March 17, 2014.

The school property is covered with native grasses and sagebrush. A curved gravel drive from the county road to the direct south of the school building provides access to the property and an informal parking area. A wire fence with metal and wood posts runs along the top of this drive and outlines the property northward.[2] A metal gate in the fence directly in front of the school building opens to a concrete walk leading up to the school. A concrete pad, approximately 23' wide, sits in front of the school entrances. Another, larger wood gate at the southeast corner provides access to the property for horses. An overhead electrical line extends from the county road at the south to a wood pole at the northeast corner of the school building, and extends beyond to another pole at the northeast corner of the horse shed.

A concrete cistern is located near the southwest corner of the school building at the concrete pad. At one time there was a flagpole in front of the school but no evidence of it remains today. There is no knowledge of Coal Creek School ever having any swings or other playground equipment. Local interviews reveal that the children would hunt rocks or arrowheads, jump rope, make snow angels, play marbles, tag and other group games at recess.

Coal Creek School, 1892 (Photos 1-6)

Coal Creek School is a single-story rectangular building, 23' x 39', built on a stone foundation. For over 120 years it has retained its original size. It is built of locally quarried sandstone, but in the 1910s or 1920s, a stucco finish was added to the outside. Currently the stucco is sloughing off the south side in patches, revealing the original stone walls. The school has a steep gable roof with modern standing-seam metal. All four sides of the building feature window openings of 3' width x 5.5' height. Today most of the windows are covered by plywood. A large concrete area with a cistern and sidewalk were installed in front of the school, possibly at the same time the stucco finish was applied, based on historic photos.

Originally the roof of the school was of wood shingles but today it is covered with modern metal standing-seam roofing. A prominent belfry was originally located at the south end of the ridge above the front façade of the building, but it was removed when the school closed (see Historic Photo 1 and Alterations section below). There is one brick chimney at the peak of the roof on the north end of the building.

South-facing side (Photo Nos. 1-2)

The south side features the main and only entrance into Coal Creek School. This side has two doors with transom windows above. An arched window opening between the two doors extends slightly into the gable end and at one time had a one-over-one double-hung window outlined with small square lights of colored glass (see Historic Photo 1), which is now missing. A decorative wood ledge with brackets at either end sits over the arch of the window. A metal, non-historic shelf of unknown function has been attached to the top of the decorative ledge, with supports extending downward. The south gabled end features decorative, unpainted wood shingles in an alternating scallop and diamond pattern. All other wood trim on the outside is painted white.

[2] A recent property survey revealed that the actual school parcel does not correspond exactly with the fence though it is the historic boundary; this nomination includes the parcel and the area enclosed by the fence, as well as the two outbuildings, which are now considered to be on two adjoining parcels (see Site Plan).

East- and west-facing sides (Photo Nos. 3, 6)
The school's east and west sides are identical, with three double-hung windows evenly spaced along each wall. Although currently covered with boards to protect from vandals, the windows feature a two-over-two light pattern and are known to have been originally fitted with Caldwell sash balances.[3] The stucco is still on the sides of the building covering the original stone. Two large cracks emanating from the window opening at the northwest corner suggest that this area of the building may have settled slightly.

North-facing side (Photo Nos. 4-5)
At the north side of the building there are two two-over-two double-hung windows, which are currently covered with plywood. The gable end is covered in clapboard siding and lacks the decorative wood shingles of the front façade. Stucco covers the original stone wall.

Interior (Photo Nos. 11-13)
The two exterior doors into the school originally opened into cloakrooms. Interior doors led from the cloakrooms into the main classroom, with transoms allowing light in. Today only one cloakroom remains at the southeast entrance. When the other cloakroom was removed is unknown. Examples of interior trim include the door casings with "running millwork" to square corner blocks with bull's-eye molding. The interior walls are lath and plaster with wainscoting at the lower half. Chalkboards cover much of the north, west and east walls. The school originally featured a 12'-high ceiling, which was subsequently lowered to about 8' in the 1950s at the time electricity was installed. The current sheet rock ceiling now covers some of the decorative woodwork and upper portions of the chalkboards.

Privies/coal storage (1892, building) (Photo Nos. 7-10)
To the north of the school building stands the privies/coal storage building. This 10' x 12' one-story frame building with side-gable roof housed a boy's privy on the west side and girl's privy on the east side, with a coal storage room between them. The building is clad in unpainted clapboard, much of which is now missing, exposing the framing and interior wood walls within. Door openings to the privies are at the east and west gable ends, at the extreme south end of each side. Each privy had the capacity to house two students at once; names carved or written in pencil on the interior walls suggest which side housed which gender.[4] The center coal storage room has a door opening at the south side (with the door itself missing) and another opening at the north side. This north opening still has an awning type door with metal strap hinges along the top; the lower half appears to be missing. Remnants of coal and wood are still in the coal storage room. Original wood shingles can be seen on the north slope of the roof, with the rest remaining unprotected. The building is severely deteriorated and may be in danger of collapse unless it is restored and protected in the near future.

Veins of coal are visible on nearby hillsides and coal mines existed in the vicinity, leading to the speculation that coal was the primary source of heat for the school most of the time. Within a few miles of the school as the elevation rises there are pine forests, and at times wood may have been used to heat the school or as kindling to start the coal fire in the mornings.

[3] "Ready for Occupancy." *Meeker Herald*, July 30, 1892.
[4] These names have also been compared with school registers and census records of local families.

Horse Shed (1892, building) (Photo Nos. 13-14)

The horse shed stands northeast of the school. The 10' x 40' shed-roof frame building has three sides and is open to the east. Rough vertical log siding covers most of the west side, while finished lumber covers the north and south ends. The roof is a corrugated metal. Original, unfinished cedar posts remain visible structural features within the shed. This building protected the horses and tack many children used to travel to school out of the westerly wind and hot afternoon sun. A gate into the school yard for horses remains today. Oral interviews with former students indicate that the horse shed was extended beyond its original length to the south, ca. 1920s-30s.

Alterations

Most of the few alterations to the school building appear to have occurred when the school closed. Prior to that at an unknown date, but likely during the 1910s-20s based on historic photographs (see Historic Photo 2), the school district covered the stone masonry with stucco.[5] The original belfry at the south end of the roof was removed sometime after the school closed in 1948. The belfry consisted of a delicate structure comprised of four tall corner posts supporting a peaked roof with a concave curved slope on each of its four faces. At the intersection of each post there was a filigree bracket brace (see Historic Photo 1). The original bell was moved and donated to the White River Museum in Meeker. In some historic photographs a metal chimney at the peak of the roof can be seen, but no information regarding its function has been found. This roof opening is believed to have been covered over when the current metal roof was installed at an unknown date sometime after 1948. In the 1950s the ceiling was lowered to accommodate electrical wiring. The horse shed is believed to have been extended at an unknown date. The doors and many of the windows have been removed and the openings are now covered. Otherwise, the school remains much as it was during its historic period.

Integrity

The school maintains a high level of integrity in regards to *location*, *setting*, and *feeling* due to it remaining as it always has on this knoll within the Coal Creek area, with very little of the immediate surroundings having changed from its agricultural and rural function. Its *association* with the education of rural children and the gathering of community also remains high, due in part to the extant blackboards, privies and horse shed. The school's integrity of *design*, *workmanship*, and *materials* is also of a fairly high level, since very little of the school has changed from its historic period. Alterations such as the application of stucco over the stone and the removal of the belfry occurred during the building's period of significance as a school and community gathering place. The decorative shingle pattern within the south gable end, the forms of the openings (such as the arched window at the façade) and the trim materials all remain as they were originally. Other changes such as the installation of the metal roof and the loss of the doors are not uncommon for this building type and can be reversed with proper supporting documentation.

[5] The 2014 Draft Historic Structure Assessment speculates that the stucco may have been added to address continuing issues with the masonry mortar. Schoeberlein, Joede of Civic Forum Associates, Inc. *Coal Creek School Historic Structure Assessment – Draft*. (March 2014) p.28.

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.
- [X] 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.
- [X] 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.)

- [ ] 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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Education
Architecture
Social History
Historic Archaeology – Non-aboriginal

Period of Significance
1892-1948
1892-1964
1892

Significant Dates
1948

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

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder

Harry Niblock
D. B. Wilson

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Coal Creek School is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of *education* from 1892-1948, for its association with providing an education to students of the Coal Creek area for 56 years. Additionally, the school is locally significant under Criterion A for *social history* from 1892-1964, having served as a gathering place for various community social functions and a polling place for over 70 years. Furthermore, the school is locally significant under Criterion C for *architecture* in 1892, as a good example of a modest Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movement style building as applied to a rural school building.

Finally, the school property is locally significant under Criterion D for *non-aboriginal historic archaeology* for its potential to yield information important to history due to buried deposits associated with the privy/coal storage building and the horse shed.

Coal Creek School is an excellent example of a one-room rural schoolhouse built in the late nineteenth century and meets the registration requirements of the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) *Rural School Buildings in Colorado*.[6] It served not only for the education of the nearby students but as the focus of community life and a gathering point for various social and community events that drew people from beyond its school district.

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

Criterion A – Education

The Coal Creek School was constructed in response to a need to accommodate the growing rural population. An earlier 1884 log cabin at a site half a mile to the east served as the first Coal Creek School until the demand for space for the increasing population of students necessitated a new building. When the present Coal Creek School was built in 1892 the nearest other rural school was over five miles away. Other rural schools weren't built within the school district until 1909 and 1916. Students for the Coal Creek School often traveled by horseback (see Historic Photo 2) or walked over dirt roads, hills and meadows five miles each way to and from the school. Because of the long distances the students had to travel daily, some families living near Coal Creek School would board other children at their homes during the school terms.

Most of the students came from the surrounding ranches and farms and ranged from the first to eighth grade level. After 1902 when a student graduated from eighth grade they could attend the Rio Blanco County High School in Meeker. Age wasn't always the criteria for what grade level a student was assigned; in 1896 a young man from Sweden attended the school in order to learn English.[7]

[6] Doggett, Suzanne and Holly Wilson, *Rural School Buildings in Colorado*. Colorado Historical Society. 1996, rev. 1999, section F, pp.30-31 http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/crforms_edumat/pdfs/627.pdf, accessed March 24, 2014.
[7] *This is What I Remember*, Vol. 2, p.448

The local school year grew from six months in the 1890s to nine months in the 1930s-40s. In the 1890s and early 1900s the school term often depended on available funds to hire a teacher as well as when children were needed to help on the ranches and farms for planting, working livestock, and harvesting. Enrollment at Coal Creek School ranged from a high of twenty-eight students in 1903 to six students in 1948. Enrollment often increased or decreased because of national or local events. Declines in local manpower during World War I and World War II resulted in some students having to attend school only when they weren't needed on the ranches or farms. Highly contagious diseases, illnesses and the flu epidemic of 1917 and 1918 caused the school to close for short periods. The 1930s Great Depression caused many families to lose their farms and ranches and move away.

As noted in the *Rural School Buildings in Colorado* MPDF, many rural schools began to close in the late 1940s and early 1950s, encouraged by Colorado's School District Reorganization Act of 1949, which followed a national trend of consolidation.[8] Many Rio Blanco County schools followed this same trend, closing in the short time span of 1948-50. When Coal Creek School closed in 1948 children were transported to the Meeker School over gravel roads by their family or neighbors. The children would ride in open pickup trucks, with other children collected along the way. Later a paid bus driver drove a panel truck which made the trip to school a lot warmer and drier. Today a full size school bus picks up students only along paved roads. If a student lives on a gravel road, parents must bring them to meet the school bus.

Criterion A – Social History

From the time the school was constructed in 1892, annual Christmas and end-of-school-year programs were provided for the parents and community. School Board meetings were held at the school and the school often hosted entertainment, suppers and dances to raise money for various school and community causes, such as an organ, War Bond drives, beautification of school grounds and repairs for the school. Most events at rural schools included a meal since people would come from miles around to attend. Young children and babies would often sleep on or under the desks as their parents danced into the early hours of the morning.

When Coal Creek School closed in 1948 the Rio Blanco County School District No. 1 retained ownership until 1957, when the Coal Creek Community Association (CCCA) bought the property for $10. The CCCA continued to use the school for social gatherings until 1987, when it was deeded to the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, on behalf of the Rio Blanco County Historical Society (RBCHS), for $10. Today it is used for storage by the RBCHS, but the goal is to restore the school to its original beauty and again use it as an educational center and meeting place for the community.

The Coal Creek School was a polling place from 1893 until the late 1960s, even when the school was not otherwise in use from 1948-57. Ballots were counted by kerosene or gas lamps until electricity finally arrived in the area in the early 1950s. There was never any electricity in the school while it was used for the education of students.

Criterion C – Architecture

Coal Creek School is a good local example of a Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century American Movement style rural school building, with its rectangular plan, gabled ends, multi-paned windows and use of local materials. Harry Niblock was the primary builder for the

[8] Doggett and Wilson, section E, p.10.

school's construction, and D. B. Wilson was the stone mason.[9] Niblock did the school's woodwork, including the decorative shingles at the south gable end. Niblock is known to have done similar work in a number of buildings still standing in the Meeker area, including St. James Episcopal Church (5RB.983, National Register listing on March 30, 1978), the interior of the first brick house at 767 Main Street in Meeker (5RB.6518), and various other private homes.

Only a few of the rural school buildings in Rio Blanco County are known to remain at their original site, such as the 1909 Little Beaver School (5RB.4441, approx. five miles east of Coal Creek School), the 1919 Ryan Gulch School (5RB.483, aka Bar D School, approx. 20 miles southwest of Meeker), and the 1902 Buford School (5RB.4419, State Register listing February 24, 2006, approx. ten miles southeast of Coal Creek School). The Coal Creek School is the oldest of these and the first one built of stone. Only one other extant rural school in Rio Blanco County is known to be constructed of stone: the 1897 Rock School (5RB.2656, approx. 15 miles southwest of Meeker). Most other rural schools in the county have been demolished or moved, usually to serve another purpose such as a garage.[10]

Criterion D –Non-aboriginal historic archaeology

Although the privy/coal storage building is in poor condition, the privy pits exist, which provide a high likelihood of obscured and buried artifacts. The information yielded may include such details as the diet of the individuals who attended the school and individuals who attended community events; how those diets may have changed in correlation to economic changes during the 1930s Great Depression, and how the food provided in a "sack lunch" changed, if at all, between 1892 and 1948. It may also provide information on the life-ways/material culture of rural school students and teachers as well as the greater community. In addition, the horse shed and any buried deposits could provide details about the care and diets of the animals that provided transportation to this school site.

Developmental History

Coal Creek and Meeker Area[11]

Prefigured by the Ute and some early ranchers, the first established Euro-American settlers in the area of modern day Meeker were United States military troops who moved in after the 1879 Meeker Massacre and Battle of Milk Creek, which occurred about ten miles northeast of the Coal Creek School's current location. The troops arrived to provide a military presence to stem the violence that had occurred earlier in the year. Troops, led by Colonel Wesley Merritt, ultimately established the Camp on the White River just four miles east of the White River Indian Agency, site of the Meeker Massacre. Nearly one thousand soldiers were housed at the Camp on the White River. Colonel Merritt departed Meeker in 1882, but the soldiers remained until 1883. By this time the area's Utes had largely been removed to the Uintah and Ouray reservation in Utah, and thus the tension between white settlers and native people had greatly reduced.

[9] *Meeker Herald*. April 2, 1892 and July 30, 1892.
[10] Rio Blanco County Historical Society, *Rural Schools*. http://www.rioblancocounty.org/rural-schools/ accessed March 27, 2014.
[11] This section relies heavily on History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's report on a recent survey of Meeker: *Meeker Site Visit Report: Jun 5, 2013*. pp.3-4.

With the military moving on to other efforts they began a sale of the now-unused army buildings in August of 1883. White settlers in the area were eager to purchase the buildings to further establish businesses and grow the community. In 1885 Meeker became the only incorporated town in northwestern Colorado, a status it held for more than twenty years. It became the center for business, banking, and commerce for the area, including a profitable Native American trade business.

After the departure of the military, early residents of Meeker and the surrounding areas were, for the most part, either directly or indirectly engaged in ranching. Ranchers managed herds on the rich lands surrounding Meeker, including Coal Creek, but the town operated as their supply headquarters. In many cases the ranchers faced a day of travel to get to Meeker for supplies, so they did not make the trip often. Businesses in town thrived on activity from the ranchers, and ranchers depended on supplies available in town. Meeker continued to serve as a supply center for ranchers well into the twentieth century, but never gained the traction of the other nearby supply centers of Rifle, Glenwood Springs, and Grand Junction. Despite never experiencing business and population growth like their neighbors to the south, Meeker and its surrounding area have remained stable with an agricultural economy and as a strong tourist destination for hunters and sportsmen.

Rural Education

The town of Meeker built its first school in 1883. Education for the surrounding rural communities would begin a year later, when the first Coal Creek School was opened in a log cabin about six miles northeast from the town of Meeker. At the time the first Coal Creek School was established in 1884, Meeker and the Coal Creek area was still part of Garfield County. Coal Creek School was District No. 3 in Garfield County. In 1889 Rio Blanco County was formed and Coal Creek School became District No. 2 in the Rio Blanco County School District. Little Beaver School, Upper Coal Creek School and Thornburgh School became part of District No. 2 between 1909 and 1916. In 1922 Coal Creek School and Little Beaver School formed District No.14. This district continued until August 26, 1955 when the electors of School District No. 14 voted to dissolve the district and annexed it to School District No. 1.

As the population in the Coal Creek area grew in the late 1880s and early 1890s, the local community realized it needed a bigger school. The present school was built in 1892 at a new site on one acre of land deeded for $1 by Andrew P. Warlick to the Rio Blanco County School District. Today some of the ranches and farms in the Coal Creek area are run by third- and fourth-generation families or alumni of the Coal Creek School. Students of Coal Creek School became teachers at various schools in and around Meeker, school board members, county commissioners, water board commissioners, and worked in various county and town positions.

Coal Creek School and Property Today

In 2013 the Coal Creek School and property were locally landmarked by the Rio Blanco County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission. Today the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, on behalf of the Rio Blanco County Historical Society, owns Coal Creek School and property. They have received a Colorado State Historical Fund grant for a Historic Structure Assessment. Once this assessment is completed the Rio Blanco County Historical Society plans to restore the Coal Creek School and property. The goal is to use it as an educational interpretive center and community center.

For over five years a group of retired teachers and Meeker area residents have been researching books, newspapers, court records, and personal papers to locate the rural school sites in Rio Blanco County. Phone calls, emails, and letters have been made all over the United States interviewing former residents, teachers and students of Rio Blanco County. Field trips took the group over hundreds of miles of paved, graveled and rough roads in the county, marking all the school sites by mileage and GPS. In 2013 this Rural School Project group finished seven different driving brochures for over 30 rural school sites in the county. The driving tours are from 33 miles to 140 miles in length. The brochures were paid for by a grant with a Freeman Fairfield Trust Grant. Each brochure has a photograph (if available) of the schools and a paragraph about each school. Detailed driving instructions to each site are given along with a map and GPS location. Rio Blanco County Commissioners instructed county personnel to design the maps and paid for and erected signs near each rural site. Each sign has the name of the school and the dates it opened and closed. These efforts to preserve the history of our rural schools in Rio Blanco County have been supported by Rio Blanco County, Rio Blanco County Historical Society, the town of Meeker, the town of Rangely, Rangely Museum, the Chamber of Commerce, and especially the people of the area. Future generations will be able to explore the educational history of the area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Interviews:
Reichert, Ellen. Phone interview with Rob Raley, May 12, 2009, Meeker, Colorado. Transcript on file with the Rural School Project, a part of the Rio Blanco County Historical Society, Meeker, Colorado.

Clark, Janet; Reichert, Ellen; Cole, Martha; Eatherton, Sally; Parr, Artie; and Rogers, Marge. Personal interview with David Raley, February 22, 2013, Meeker Colorado.

Transcript on file with the Rural School Project, a part of the Rio Blanco County Historical Society, Meeker, Colorado.

Reichert, Ellen; Cole, Martha; and Rogers, Marge. Personal interview with Bill Kraft, November 11, 2011, Meeker, Colorado. Transcript on file with the Rural School Project, a part of the Rio Blanco County Historical Society, Meeker, Colorado.

Clark, Janet; Reichert, Ellen; Cole; Martha; Eatherton; Sally and Rogers, Marge. Personal interviews at Coal Creek School with Ola Keller, Bessie Allen, and Beth Cooney, July 30, 2013, Meeker, Colorado. Transcript on file with the Rural School Project, a part of the Rio Blanco County Historical Society, Meeker, Colorado.

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
____ Local government
____ University
__X_ Other
Name of repository: _____White River Museum_____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): __5RB.3575_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.19

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
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [x] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 13	Easting: 259608	Northing: 4435029
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

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

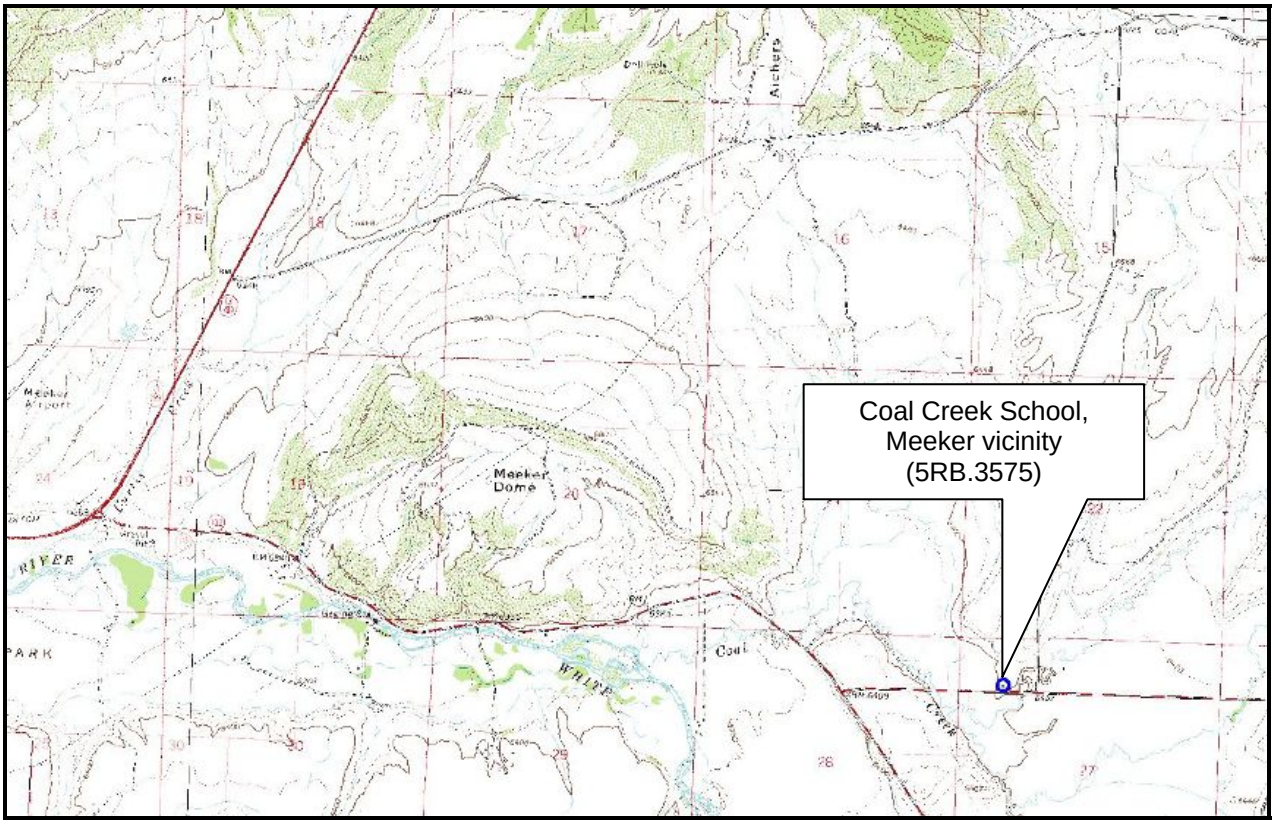
Legal description of school parcel from the Rio Blanco County Assessor's website:
S: 27 T: 1N R: 93W A PARCEL IN THE NWNW
Parcel: 141127200151

Boundary extends from this parcel to fence line beyond to the north and west, to include the privy/coal storage shed and the horse shed which are now on different parcels (Nos. 141115300004 and 141127200135 respectively).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

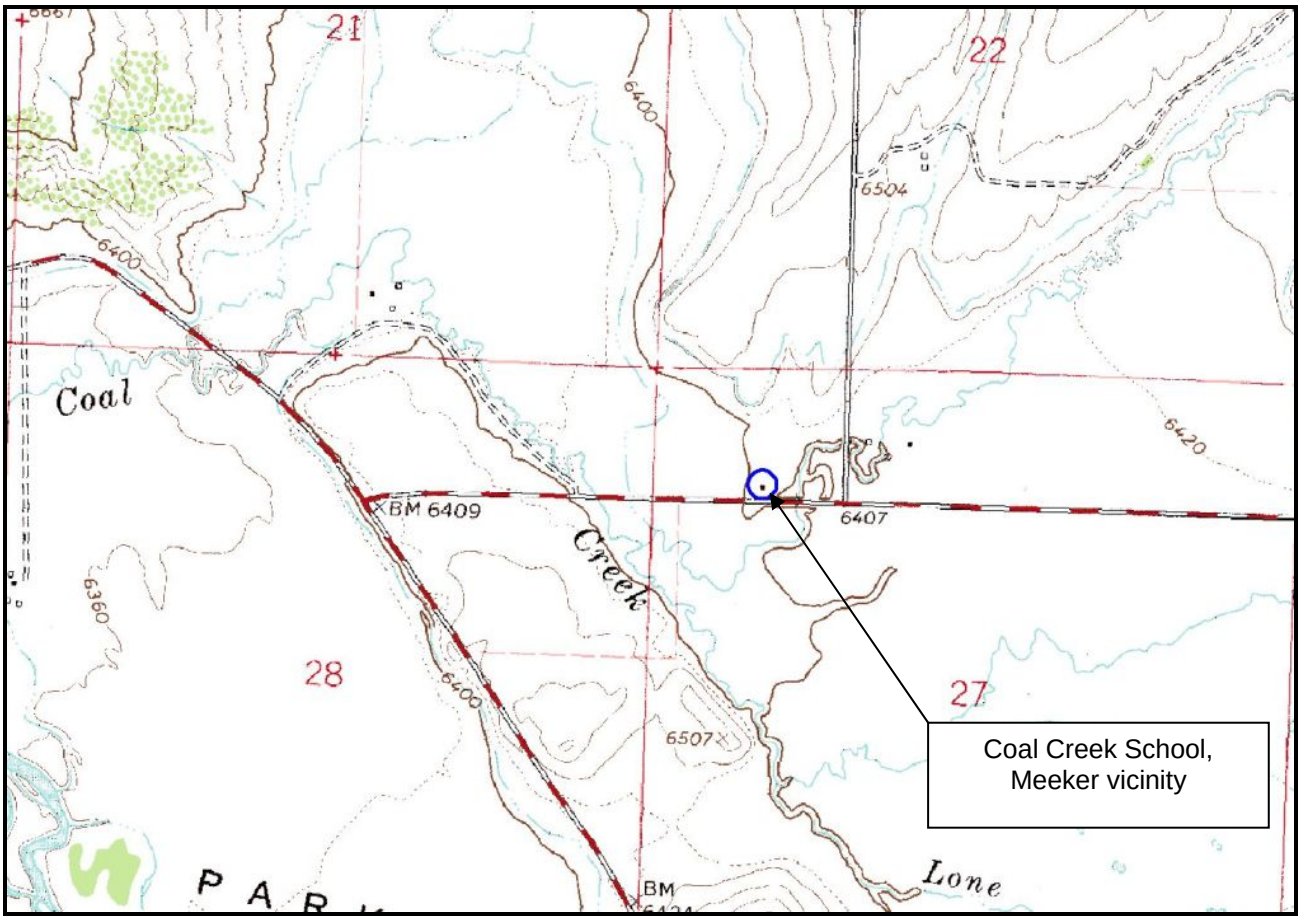
The nomination boundary of the Coal Creek School is all of that property historically associated with the Coal Creek School.

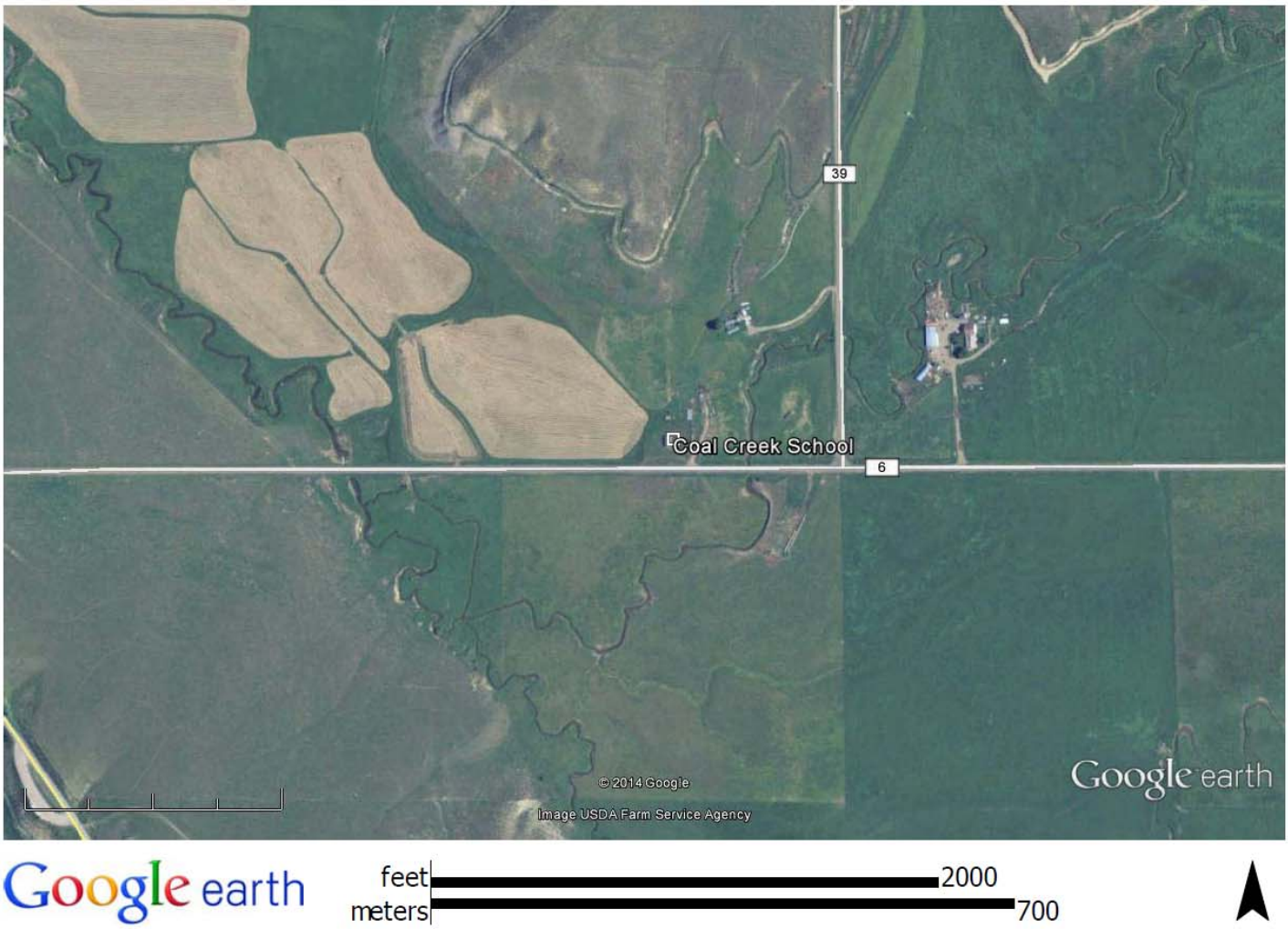
USGS – Regional Perspective **Elevation 6400'**
Rattlesnake Mesa quadrangle
7.5 minutes series



Meeker approx.
5 miles west

USGS – close- up perspective

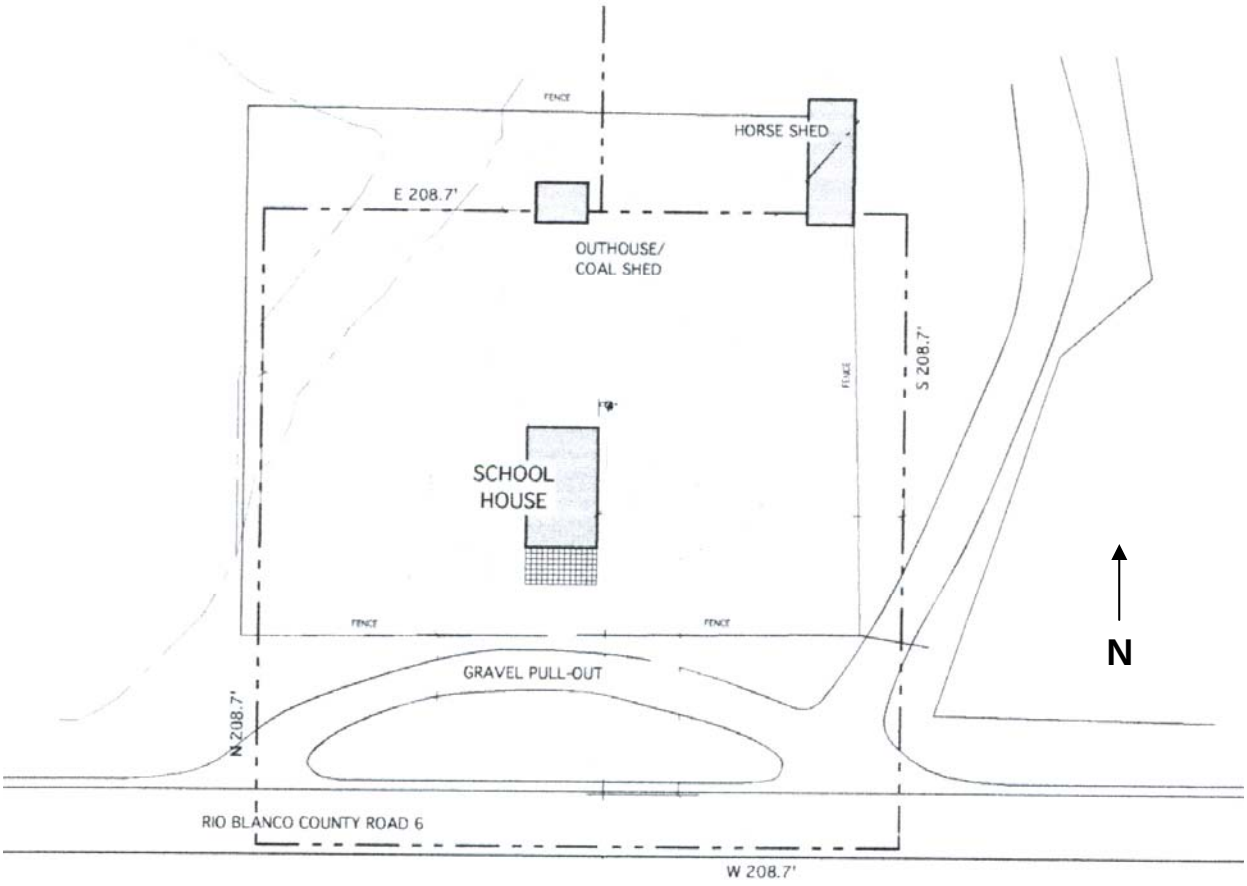




Coal Creek School

Latitude: 40.031208 degrees
Longitude: -107.817370 degrees

SITE PLAN (not to scale)



Adapted from site plan found in *Coal Creek School Historic Structure Assessment – Draft*. (March 2014) by Joede Schoeberlein, of Civic Forum Associates, Inc.

NB: Nomination includes the school parcel (indicated by dashed line), as well as the area delineated by the fence to the north and west, including the privy/coal shed and the horse shed.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Janet Clark, for property owners (edited by E. Warzel)
organization: Rio Blanco Historical Society
street & number: _____
city or town: Meeker state: Colorado zip code: 81641
e-mail _____
telephone: _____
date: November 16, 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photo Log

Name of Property: Coal Creek School
City or Vicinity: Meeker
County: Rio Blanco State: Colorado
Photographer: Janet Clark
Date Photographed: March 5 and April 3, 2013
TIFF Images on file with the National Register, Washington, D.C.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

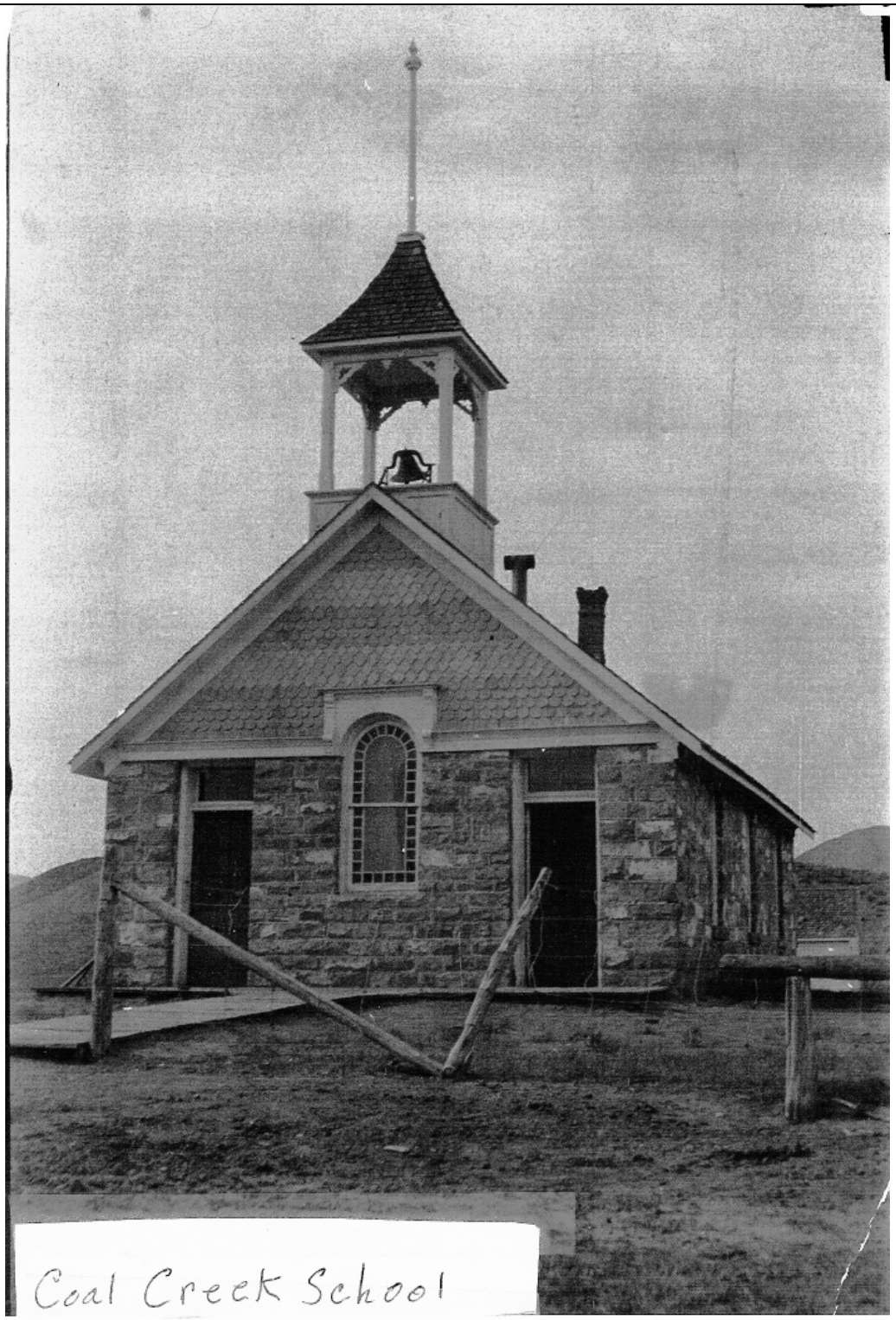
Current Building Photos
Photo 1: South façade, camera facing north.
Photo 2: South gable detail, camera facing north.
Photo 3: West side, camera facing east.
Photo 4: North side, camera facing south.
Photo 5: North gable detail, camera facing south.
Photo 6: East side, camera facing west.
Photo 7: South side of privy/coal storage shed, camera facing north.
Photo 8: North side of privy/ coal storage shed, camera facing south.
Photo 9: East side of privy/ coal storage shed, camera facing west.
Photo 10: West side of privy/ coal storage shed, camera facing east.
Photo 11: Wainscot inside school, camera facing east.

Photo 12: Interior door frame of cloak room, camera facing east.
Photo 13: Exterior of horse shed, camera facing east.
Photo 14: Interior of horse shed, camera facing west.

HISTORIC IMAGES

Historic Photo 1: Coal Creek School, ca. 1892. Camera facing north.
Historic Photo 2: Coal Creek School with students on horseback, ca. 1928. Camera facing west.
Historic Photo 3: Coal Creek School, ca. 1930s. Camera facing east.

Historic Photo 1



Historic Photo 2: Ca. 1928. note stucco has been applied to walls of school.	
Historic Photo 3: Ca. 1930s.	

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04/03/2013 02:45