

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mt. Pleasant School

other names/site number 5AL.89

2. Location

street & number ict. of County Road 3 South and Road 103 South [N/A] not for publication

city or town Alamosa [X] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Alamosa code 003 zip code 81101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

State Historic Preservation Officer

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register
[] See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
[] See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register.
- removed from the
National Register
- other, explain
[] See continuation sheet.

Mt. Pleasant School
Name of Property

Alamosa County, Colorado
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

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

Rural School Buildings of Colorado

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/school

Social/meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements

Other: rural schoolhouse

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stucco

roof Metal; Wood/shingle

other Stone

Narrative Description

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

Mt. Pleasant School
Name of Property

Alamosa County, Colorado
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education
Architecture
Social History

Periods of Significance
1911-1956

Significant Dates
1911

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

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
Colorado Historical Society

Mt. Pleasant School
Name of Property

Alamosa County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- | | | | | |
|----|------|---------|----------|----------------------------|
| 1. | 13 | 413086 | 4154057 | (NAD 27) |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 2. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 3. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 4. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | [] See continuation sheet |

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dorothy Ziegler & Patricia Knapp, members
organization Mt. Pleasant School Association date _____
street & number 3580 Ziegler Road telephone _____
city or town Alamosa state Colorado zip code 81101

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name See continuation sheet
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Mt. Pleasant School
Alamosa County, Colorado
(Rural School Buildings of Colorado MPS)

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

Mt. Pleasant School is a one-room rural schoolhouse that meets the registration requirements delineated in the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) entitled *Rural School Buildings of Colorado*. The building possesses a high degree of historic integrity and is in good condition.

Located about eight miles west of Alamosa, the Mt. Pleasant School sits on a small fenced parcel surrounded by expanses of agricultural fields containing alfalfa, grain, and potatoes. A wire fence with metal stakes encloses the lone school building and the remains of its playground equipment. Vegetation consists of grass and deciduous trees. Clusters of large mature trees help to delineate the north and west edges of the parcel. Several smaller trees grow close to the north side of the building.

An open belfry atop a concave sloping roof anchors the southwest corner of the one-story building with its broad roof planes. The main portion of the building is 38.5' x 27.5' with a smaller (8' x 23') extension on the west side that modifies the rectangular plan. The building has a stone foundation and beige stucco walls punctuated with quarry faced stone trim. A stone beltcourse encircles the building serving as a sill course for the clustered windows on the east, west and south walls. Blocks of quarry faced stone also serve as lintels above the windows.

The moderately-pitched hipped roof, covered with standing seam metal painted brown, has overhanging eaves with exposed rafters. The west slope of the hipped roof extends to cover the vestibule projection. A small gabled roof connects the bell tower roof to the main roof. A tall, square brick chimney pierces the east slope roof; a shorter, rectangular brick chimney pierces the west slope. The concave roof slopes of the tower are faced with square cut wood shingles. The open belfry has four square posts with decorative brackets supporting a low pitched hipped roof missing much of its wood shingles. The belfry housed a bell until it was stolen in ca. 1974.

Anchoring the southwest corner is the bell tower, which also contains the main entrance. Several rounded concrete steps, framed by low concrete wing walls, lead to a stoop and the single leaf, glazed and paneled door. A transom with vertical lights surmounts the door and above it is a smooth stone block incised with "MT. PLEASANT DISTRICT NO. 19".

The south side contains a centrally positioned grouping of four windows. The west wall has three windows with an additional window piercing the bell tower. The east side contains a series of four windows and a door. It is evident by the ghost marks of the stone lintel and the abrupt break in the sill course that the door was created from a window opening. A triple window is positioned high on the north wall and one window pierces the north wall of the vestibule.

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Numerous wood frame windows provide light and ventilation. With the exception of those on the north side, the other windows are all tall, narrow, double-hung sash windows with 2/2 vertical lights. Some are covered with storm windows. The smaller windows on the north side are single sash with two vertical lights. Clusters of large windows on the south and east sides maximize light into the classroom. The windows on the west wall illuminate the vestibule. The smaller windows high on the north wall provide even light without allowing as much cold winter air into the building.

The main entrance accesses the elongated vestibule that also served as a coat room. The coat hooks remain above the wide vertical board wainscoting. There are two doors on each end of the east wall that lead into the classroom. There is a small bathroom (toilet and sink) at the north end of the vestibule that is no longer functioning.

The classroom was essentially one large space with a movable partition that could create two smaller rooms. The partition has since been removed. Along the north wall of the classroom is a raised platform (16'6" x 5'9") lined with blackboards. The original blackboards were painted green. Above the blackboards is the small triple window. Adjacent the platform in the northwest corner is a built-in storage unit with cupboards and drawers for supplies. The interior contains much of its historic fabric, including hardwood floors, architrave trim around window and doors, and wooden 5-cross panel doors.

Alterations

Although the building has undergone some changes over time, the majority of these occurred while the school was still in operation. A 1931 photograph shows the first grade class (of two students) standing near the main entry which at that time was comprised of two narrow glazed and paneled wooden doors. It is not known when these were replaced with the current single leaf door and infill. Another entrance into the classroom was created by enlarging one of the windows on the east side. Interviewees believed this occurred before the 1950s. The school was originally constructed of soft red brick made near the site. Historic photographs indicate the walls were a stretcher bond. It is believed that sometime in the late 1950s or early 1960s, the school district had the brick covered with stucco. A few changes happened after the school district closed the school. The bell was stolen out of the belfry around 1974. A 1976 photograph shows a flagpole (or spire) atop the belfry roof, which is no longer present. A standing seam metal roof was installed in 1990.

There have also been some interior changes. The folding doors that partitioned the one large classroom into two smaller ones were removed (date unknown). The hardwood floors have been replaced once. Two indoor bathrooms were added at the end of the vestibule area. It is believed they were installed sometime between 1949

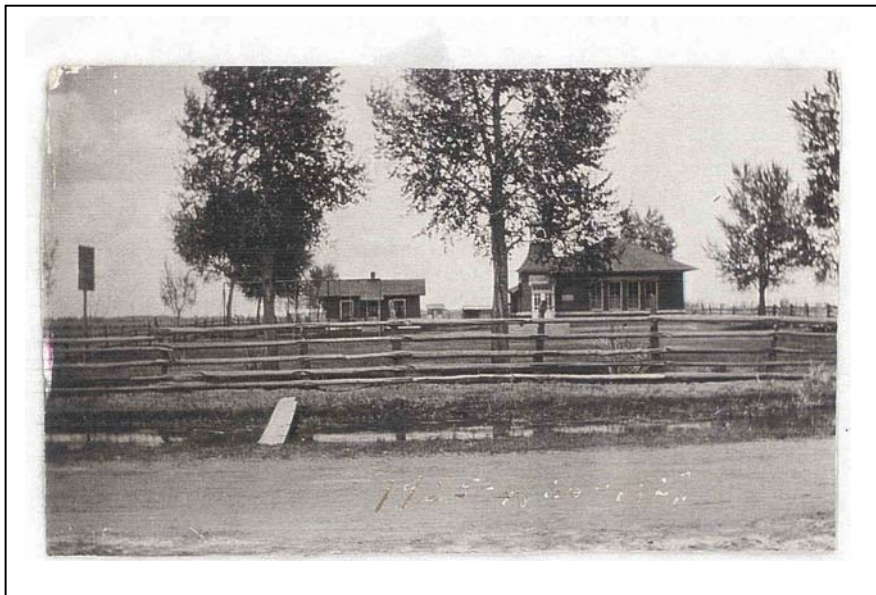
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Alamosa County, Colorado
(Rural School Buildings of Colorado MPS)

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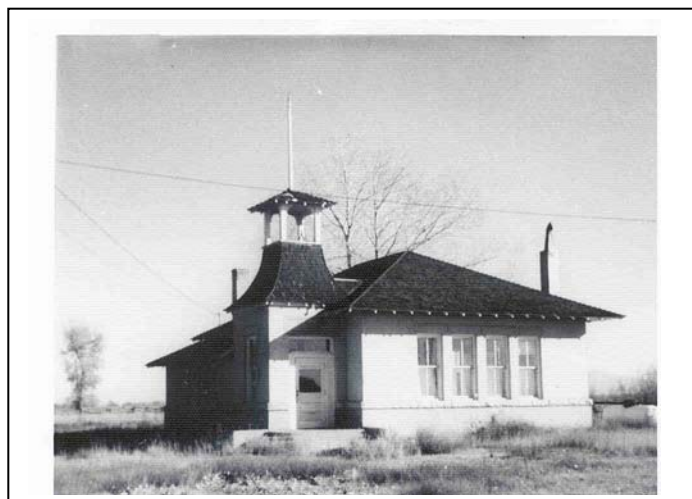
and the mid-1950s. During the Rio Grande Arts Council's ownership, one of the toilets was removed and today the other toilet no longer functions. Originally a coal stove provided heat for the building; the stove was later converted to oil. A wood stove was installed sometime after the school closed. Gas lanterns originally hung from the ceiling to provide light. It was not until the R.E.A., sometime around 1938, brought their lines to the rural areas that electricity became available for the school.

Other buildings once shared the school grounds with the school, including a teacherage, coal shed, and privies. Built in 1915, the two-room (later enlarged to four rooms) teacherage was sold by the school district and moved to Alamosa after the school closed. It is not known when the other buildings were removed. The 1981 survey form noted a swing set and merry-go-round in the school yard. Only the frame of the swing set remains.



Mt. Pleasant School and teacherage, date unknown

Mt. Pleasant School in 1976

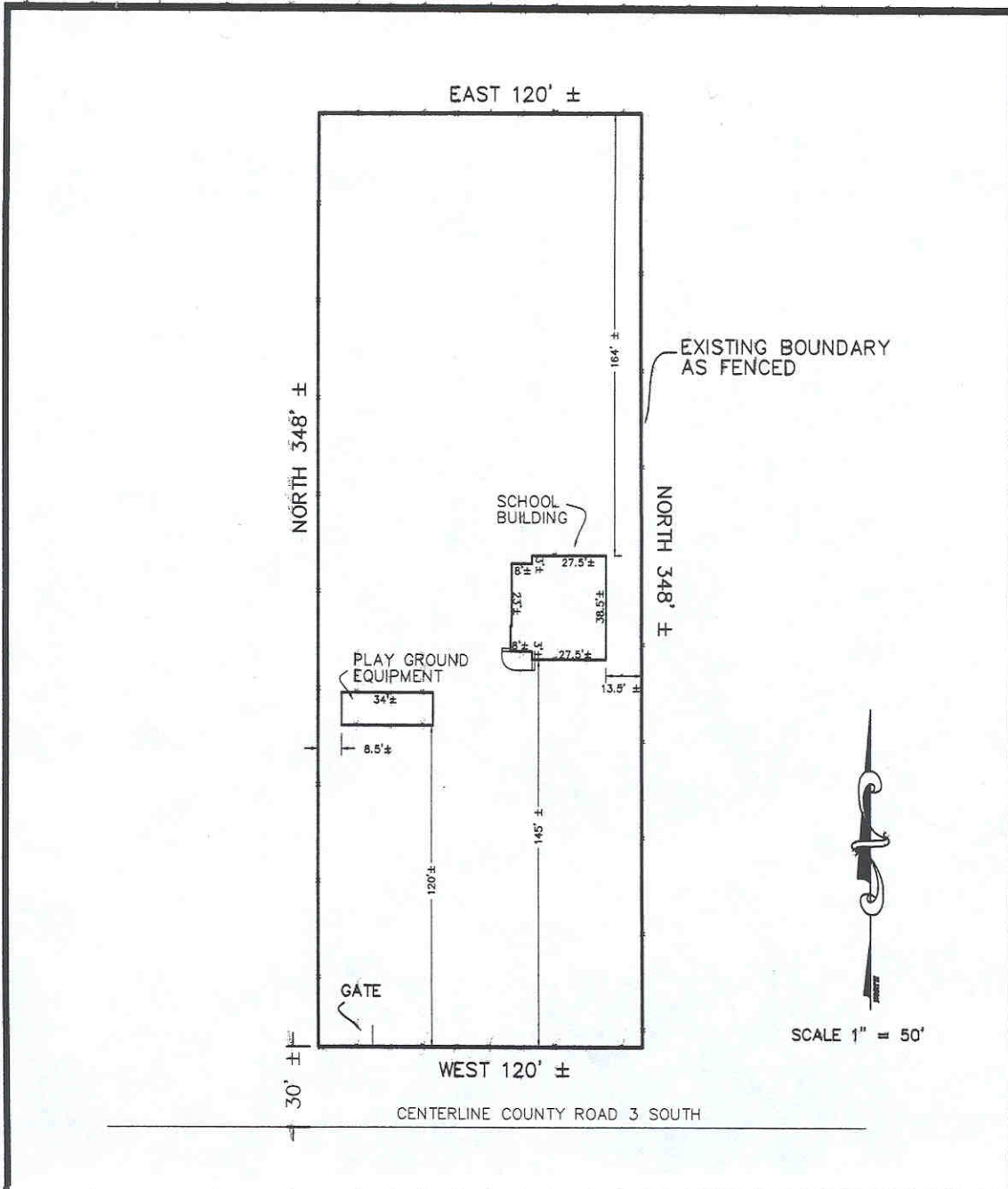


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Site Plan



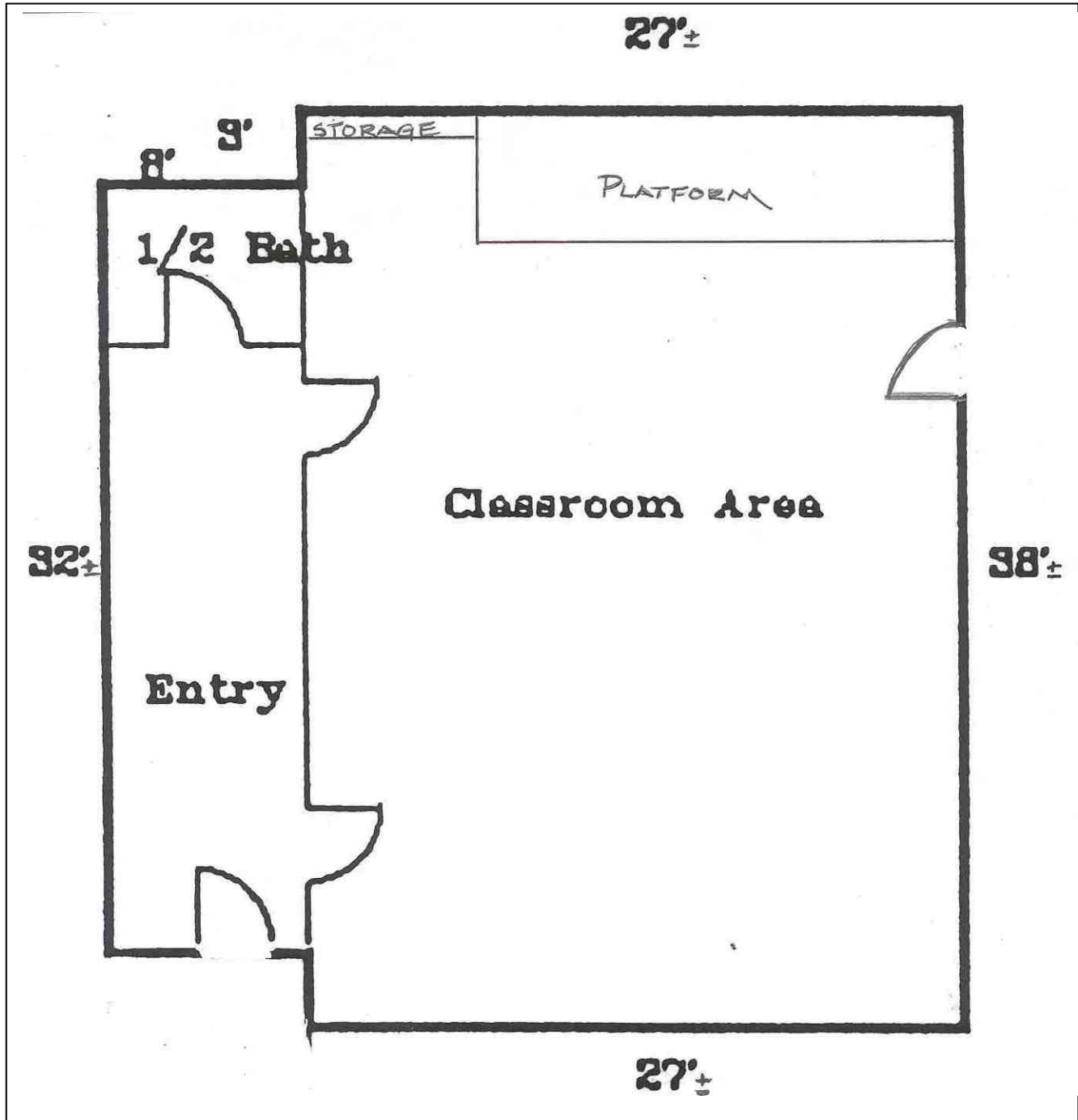
REYNOLDS ENGINEERING COMPANY 21626 COUNTY ROAD AA.5 ALAMOSA, COLORADO 81101 (719)-274-3218	CLIENT: MT. PLEASANT SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER 7, 2005 PROJECT NO. ILC-AL110502-603	1 ACRE SE 1/4 SE 1/4 SE 1/4 SECTION 16 TOWNSHIP 38 NORTH RANGE 9 EAST N.M.P.M., ALAMOSA COUNTY, CO
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Floor plan (not to scale)



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SIGNIFICANCE

The Mt. Pleasant School meets the registration requirements of the schoolhouse property type as delineated in the MPDF *Rural School Buildings of Colorado*. Schoolhouses are associated with the influence of formal education on the development of rural settlements. These buildings provide physical evidence about the conditions of rural education that prevailed in Colorado well into the mid-twentieth century. They are therefore eligible under Criterion A for historical significance in the area of Education. Built in 1911, the Mt. Pleasant School was the third building at this location to serve as the area's only school. Some families in the community sent three generations of children to this school building (or one of its predecessors). In continual use until 1965, the Mt. Pleasant School was the last one-room school in use in the Alamosa area. For its association with public education in rural Colorado, this building is eligible under Criterion A.

Mt. Pleasant School was the only public building on the rural landscape. It functioned not only as a center for education, but also served as a focus of community life by hosting a variety of activities. For this reason, the building is also eligible under Criterion A for its association with the social history of the community.

The Mt. Pleasant School embodies the distinctive characteristics of a building type and is therefore eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The building's purpose is easily discernable by its form. In its size, scale, window placement, and interior configuration, the building epitomizes the schoolhouse property type. Its clustered windows and hipped roof reflect turn-of-the-century "innovations" in rural school design. The predominant architectural feature on Mt. Pleasant's otherwise utilitarian form is the unusual corner bell tower/entrance. Belfries were viewed as status symbols; most were simple affairs, but a few were topped with elaborate roofs. The tower's concave roof slope is an unusual feature.

The period of significance begins in 1911 when the building was constructed. Although the school remained in operation until 1965, the period of significance ends in 1956 in order to comply with the National Register's 50-year rule.

Historical Background

The Mt. Pleasant School District had its beginnings as District No. 19 in Conejos County. At that time, before Alamosa County was formed, land lying north of the Rio Grande was Costilla County and land south of the river was Conejos County. When Alamosa County was created in 1913, District No. 19 changed to District No. 1. The new district encompassed an area starting about five miles west of Alamosa, continuing west to the county line, on north to the Rio Grande River, and slightly south of Highway 160.

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Alamosa County, Colorado
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The first settlers to the area were of German descent (Higel, Stender, Zeigler, Knoop, Heersink and Schaak and Johannsen among others), many of whom still have families farming in the area. Children from these families originally attended the old Parma School located at the west county line. This building was constructed for \$100--\$80 for materials and \$20 for labor. On May 19, 1888, parents met to organize a new school district, resulting in the relocation of the 12' x 18' Parma School to the present Mt. Pleasant site. The first teacher was Miss Sophie Uhri, who earned \$40 a month and boarded at the home of Ferdinand Higel. She and Higel's son, Louis, walked together to school, a distance of two miles. More families came and soon the little school was outgrown. By 1902, a new brick schoolhouse stood on a stone foundation, but faulty construction shortened the life of this building when strong winds damaged the south gable so severely that it was replaced in 1911 with the current building. The new schoolhouse was constructed of bricks made on site. The name of the builder is not known.

Some of the things remembered by former students about their experiences at Mt. Pleasant School are the faithful recital of the Pledge of Allegiance every morning and the fun games that were played during recess. Classroom duties, such as sweeping the floor, cleaning the chalk boards and erasers, hoisting, lowering and folding the flag, were assigned to the students on a rotating basis. Before the teacherage was constructed, the teachers came to school on horseback, by bicycle, and one living north of the river used a boat. During the winter, some teachers lived with nearby families.

About 1920, there was an effort to consolidate the District with Alamosa because of the long distance children had to walk in the cold to get to the schoolhouse. The community resisted and decided instead that they needed a school bus. Ferdinand Higel purchased a 1921 Reo bus and provided transportation for the students.

The school originally had an eight grade program, and one year it was a nine grade program. In 1947, it was reduced to six grades. In the 1960s, it was further reduced to only a four grade program. District No. 1 continued in spite of sporadic efforts to consolidate. It eventually became part of the Alamosa school system, but continued to operate as a community school. On August 25, 1964, a motion was approved by the Alamosa Board of Education to close Mt. Pleasant School. Again the community resisted and through a special meeting the motion was rescinded, allowing the school to continue one more year. The building officially closed at the end of the 1964-65 school year. Following its closure, the building was used as a community center with the Alamosa School District retaining ownership.

By the mid-1970s, the Mt. Pleasant community was finding it difficult to continue with the necessary upkeep of the building and vandalism was becoming a problem. Constant repair and theft caused the school district to decide that the building had to

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be put to use or sold for salvage. The Mt. Pleasant community and its alumni initiated an idea to save the school that was endorsed by the school district, the Alamosa community, Adams State College, and the Alamosa Centennial-Bicentennial Commission. In 1975, it was proposed to relocate the building to the campus of Adams State College, a teacher training institution. Plans were to position the building west of the library and use it as a schoolhouse museum. In a few months, after several fund-raising events and publicity in local papers, \$3,500 was raised with a sizeable amount being donated from the Phipps Foundation. The goal was \$5,000 and Adams State College Foundation planned to come up with matching funds. As the building is still at its original location, the proposal was obviously never realized.

By 1981, the Rio Grande Arts Council had acquired title to the building from Alamosa School District RE 11J and had a lease agreement with the State of Colorado for the land. In 1989, the Rio Grande Arts Center sold the building to its current owners, the Mt. Pleasant School Association, a non-profit incorporated the previous year. The land is still owned by the Colorado State Land Board, which supports the designation. The Mt. Pleasant Community Association occasionally uses the building as a meeting place for various activities, including 4-H.

The building was used for other purposes besides serving as a school, a pattern typical of rural schoolhouses. Extension Club meetings, 4-H Club meetings and other community gatherings were (and still are) held there. Prior to the 1950s, the building served as a place for the political parties to hold their caucuses and then used as a polling place during the elections. It was also used as a place to register for the draft during World War II, and a place for volunteers to roll bandages during the same war. Dances, community plays and picnics have been held there. When the building was still being used as a school, a wonderful Christmas program was put on by the students every year. Other holidays also had their programs. Family reunions and anniversary parties have been held there. It was once the hub of the community. As there were so many families of different faiths and the area had no church, the school was the focal point, the tie that bonded the community together.

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Mt. Pleasant School -- 1929

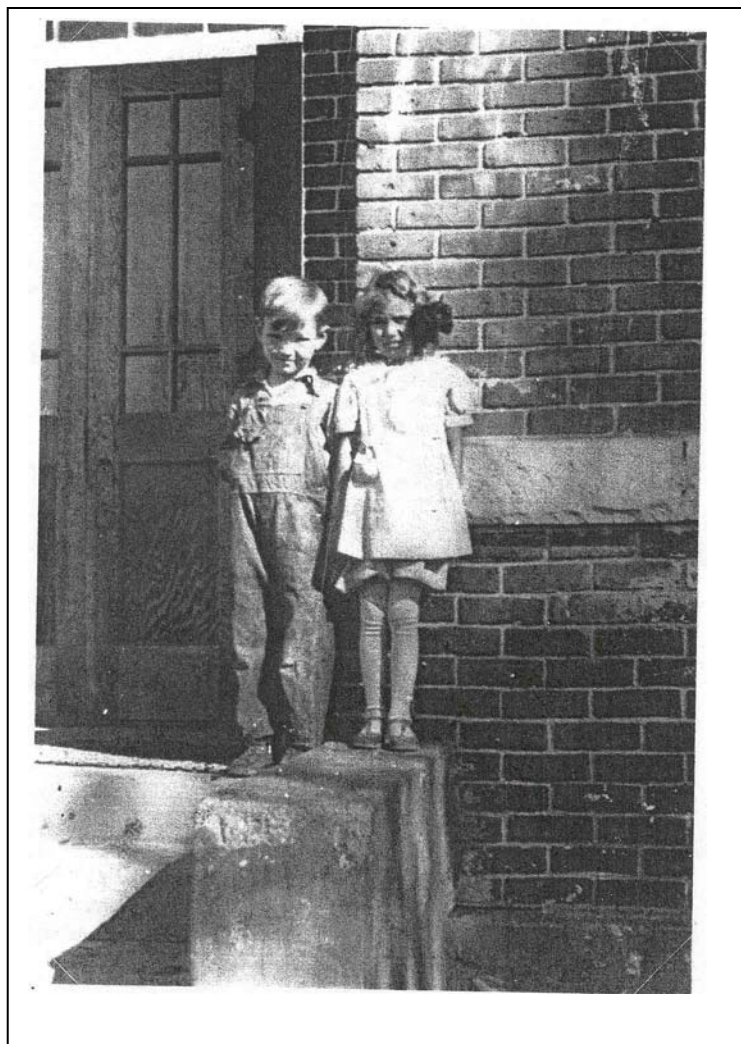


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First Grade Class -- 1931



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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Alamosa County School District #1, School Board Meeting Minutes.

Biundo, Jim. Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Form for Mt. Pleasant School (5AL89), 1981. On file in the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado.

Colorado State Archives, Denver, Colorado. Statistics relative to Alamosa County for 1920-1958.

Darling, Estella [teacher]. Conejos County, School District #19, Teacher's Register for Mt. Pleasant School, 10 October 1910 to 14 April 1911.

Doggett, Suzanne and Wilson, Holly. *Rural School Buildings in Colorado*, National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1999. On file in the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado.

"Mt. Pleasant School Doors Are Closed." *The (Alamosa) Valley Courier*. 1965 or 1966.

O'Leary, John. "What is to Become of Mt. Pleasant School, Long a Landmark of Valley?" *The [Alamosa] Valley Courier*. 9 December 1975, p.4.

Relyea, Linda. "One-room schoolhouse has deep foundations." *Campus Life*. 5 October 1995. p.11.

"School Districts," *Alamosa Journal*, 6 February 1914, p.1.

White, Oliver, Mrs. "Mount Pleasant Closing of School Brings End of Era." *The [Alamosa] Valley Courier*, 1965.

Interviews with former students:

Knapp, Patricia Higel
Knapp, Roger
Thompson, Perry
Ziegler, Dorothy
Ziegler, Harold

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Alamosa County, Colorado
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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A 120' wide x 348' long fenced parcel (approximately one acre) in the extreme southeastern corner of the SE ¼ of Section 16 [SE ¼, SE ¼, SE ¼], Township 38 North, Range 9 East, New Mexico Prime Meridian.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the school.

PROPERTY OWNERS

Building:

Mt. Pleasant School Association
3580 Ziegler Road
Alamosa, Colorado 81101

Contacts: Dorothy Ziegler (719) 587-2465
Patricia Knapp (719) 589-6021

Land:

State Board of Land Commissioners
South District Office
P.O. Box 88, 305 Murphy Drive, Unit A
Alamosa, Colorado 81101

Contact: Mr. Kit Page, South District Manager, (719) 589-2360

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-12 except as noted:

Name of Property: Mt. Pleasant School
Location: Alamosa County, Colorado
Photographer: Dorothy Ziegler
Date of Photographs: September 2005
Negatives: in possession of photographer

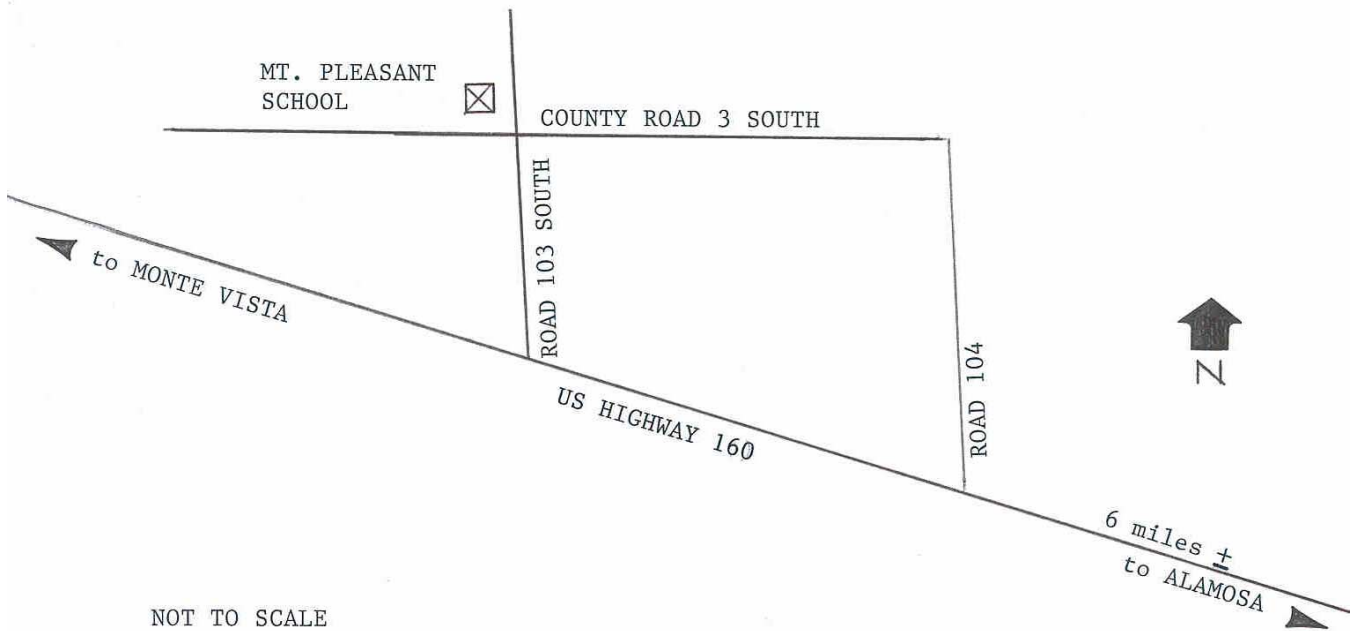
<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
1	South façade, camera facing north.
2	West side, camera facing east.
3	North (rear) side, camera facing south.
4	East side, camera facing northwest.
5	Swing set, west of school, camera facing west.
6	Close up of entry on south façade, camera facing north.
7	South façade, camera facing north.
8	View from school to east across agricultural fields.
9	View from school to west across agricultural fields.
10	Interior- teacher's platform and blackboards on north wall.
11	Interior- original built-in cabinets on north wall.
12	Interior-view down hallway towards bathroom, door into classroom on right.

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Locator Map



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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Mount Pleasant School Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 413086mE / 4154057mN

PLSS: NM PM, T38N, R9E, Sec. 16

SE¼, SE¼, SE¼, SE¼

Elevation: 7585 feet

