

COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

SECTION I

Name of Property

Historic Name Long Meadow Community Club Building

Other Names Long Meadow School

Address of Property

address not for publication

Street Address 6045 County Road I

City Wiggins County Morgan Zip 80654

Present Owner of Property

(for multiple ownership, list the names and addresses of each owner on one or more continuation sheets)

Name Long Meadow Community Club

Address 6045 County Road I Phone _____

City Wiggins State CO Zip 80654

Owner Consent for Nomination

(attach signed consent from each owner of property - see attached form)

Preparer of Nomination

Name Nita Zimmerman Date August 26, 2004

Organization Long Meadow Community Club

Address 10695 Highway 52 Phone _____

City Wiggins State CO Zip 80654-7809

FOR OFFICIAL USE:

Site Number 5MR.818

_____ Nomination Received

Senate # _____ House # _____

_____ Review Board Recommendation
 ____ Approval ____ Denial

_____ CHS Board State Register Listing
 ____ Approved ____ Denied

Certification of Listing: President, Colorado Historical Society

Date _____

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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SECTION II

Local Historic Designation

Has the property received local historic designation?

no

yes --- individually designated designated as part of a historic district

Date designated _____

Designated by _____ (Name of municipality or county)

Use of Property

Historic School; Meeting Hall

Current Meeting Hall

Original Owner Morgan County School District

Source of Information Morgan County Tax Assessor's Office

Year of Construction 1908

Source of Information Morgan County Tax Assessor's Office

Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer Local residents

Source of Information Oral testimony

Locational Status

Original location of structure(s)

Structure(s) moved to current location

Date of move Addition moved to site in 1949

SECTION III

Description and Alterations

(describe the current and original appearance of the property and any alterations on one or more continuation sheets)

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SECTION IV

Significance of Property

Nomination Criteria

- A** - property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history
- B** - property is connected with persons significant in history
- C** - property has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan
- D** - property is of geographic importance
- E** - property contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history

Areas of Significance

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology – prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology – historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/ Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/ Settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Geography/ Community Identity | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/ Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning and Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social History |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |

Significance Statement

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

Bibliography

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

SECTION V

Locational Information

Lot(s) NA Block _____ Addition _____

USGS Topographic Quad Map Hoyt

Verbal Boundary Description of Nominated Property

(describe the boundaries of the nominated property on a continuation sheet)

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SECTION VI

Photograph Log for Black and White Photographs

(prepare a photograph log on one or more continuation sheets)

SECTION VII

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO ACCOMPANY NOMINATION

Owner Consent Form

Black and White Photographs

Color Prints or Digital Images

Sketch Map(s)

Photocopy of USGS Map Section

Optional Materials

Use of Nomination Materials

Upon submission to the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, all nomination forms and supporting materials become public records pursuant to CRS Title 24, and may be accessed, copied, and used for personal or commercial purposes in accordance with state law unless otherwise specifically exempted. The Colorado Historical Society may reproduce, publish, display, perform, prepare derivative works or otherwise use the nomination materials for Society and/or State Register purposes.

For Office Use Only

Property Type: building(s) district site structure object area

Architectural Style/Engineering Type: No style

Period of Significance: 1949-1982

Level of Significance: Local State National

Acreage 1.0

P.M. 6th Township 2N Range 59W Section 19 Quarter Sections SW SW SW SW

UTM Reference: Zone 13 Easting 582132 Northing 4441012 NAD27

Site Elevation: 4,638 feet

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PROPERTY OWNERS

Land

Gail Stencel
8414 Rd 6
Wiggins, CO 80654

Building

Long Meadow Community Club
c/o Nita Zimmerman, President
10695 Highway 52
Wiggins, CO 80654

DESCRIPTION and ALTERATIONS

The Long Meadow Community Club Building stands on the northeast corner of the intersection of Morgan County Road 6 and Road I, approximately nine miles south and two miles east of Wiggins in rural Morgan County. The building and its associated stable are surrounded by agricultural fields. The level site is covered with wild grasses. Several deciduous trees frame the building and a row of bushes lines the rear (north) side.

The one-story, slightly irregular L-shaped plan, wood-frame building rises from a concrete foundation. The building fronts south and the overall dimensions of the building are 66' x 38'. The exterior is clad in cement-asbestos shingles. The windows are wood frame in a variety of sizes and patterns. The cross gable roof is covered with standing seam metal roofing. A portion of the roofing on the former school section of the building is damaged exposing older wood shingles. A brick chimney rises through the ridge at the rear of the front gable roof. A metal flue pipe pierces the rear of the cross gable.

The building consists of two major sections. The first is a former 1908 one-room schoolhouse forming the east end of the building. The front gable school is 16' x 24' with an off-center 10' x 12' gable-roofed facade extension. The extension once served as the school cloakroom. The facade of the extension contains a small one-over-one window. Identical windows are found on the south and north elevations. A routed wood sign in the gable end states, "Long Meadow School 1908." The south elevation of the classroom portion of the school building contains a plain wood door behind a wood-framed screen door. The entry is accessed from a two-step concrete stoop with metal pipe railing.

The east elevation of the school contains two four-over-four windows. The original location of a third window is now covered by a shed-roofed restroom addition.

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The north (rear) elevation of the school building is without fenestration. The south elevation of the former school building is almost totally obscured by its connection to a relocated army barracks.

The 20' x 50' addition is actually only half of the original barracks building. The north elevation of the side gabled addition contains a series of evenly-spaced nine-light windows. The west elevation is without fenestration, though there is visible evidence of an infilled window opening.

The south elevation of the barracks addition repeats the fenestration of the north, with the exception of an entry at the western-most end of the building. The plain wood door with wood-framed screen door is accessed from a two-step concrete stoop with metal pipe railing.

On the interior, the west wall of the former school house opens into the former barracks to form one large L-shaped space. The walls and ceiling throughout are covered with fiberboard panels. Knotty pine beadboard wainscoting lines all the walls. The combined building retains its wood strip floor. The floors are covered with carpeting. Two doorways from the classroom space open into the kitchen area in the former cloakroom.

As originally constructed, the 1908 schoolhouse consisted of a rectangular plan with an entry door centered in the south elevation. The exterior walls were clad in horizontal wood siding and the roofing consisted of cut wood shingles. Early photos show that the south gable end once contained a return cornice. The cloakroom was a later addition. A similar addition to the Old Trail School, also built in rural Morgan County but now in Wiggins, dates to 1926. Historic photos indicate that the cloakroom addition on the Long Meadow building dates to sometime after 1932. A 1951 photograph shows an entry door centered in the south elevation of the cloakroom. A window now occupies the area. The same photograph also shows that a window occupied the space now containing the entry to the former classroom.

In 1949, one half of a former army barracks from Buckley Field in Aurora was moved to the site and connected to the west elevation of the recently retired schoolhouse. Photographs taken in 1949 show the exterior walls of the former barracks covered with tar paper and vertical battens. The photograph also shows the nine-light windows which remain in the building. A 1951 photograph shows the combined buildings after having been fully resided with cement-asbestos shingles. At some point after 1951 the entire building received a standing seam metal roof.

The interior of the former classroom received new materials as part of its conversion to a community center. Beaded wood wainscoting and fiberboard panels covers what likely were originally plastered walls and ceiling. The cloakroom was converted to a kitchen with the addition of floor cabinets and appliances. The south classroom wall was largely removed to form an opening into the barracks addition. The original interior finish in the barracks was covered or replaced by the wood wainscoting, fiberboard panels and carpeting. A local artist painted an arched mural over the entry into the addition from the classroom.

The site also contains a small former stable used by students during the school's operation. The building is shown in a 1951 photograph. A 1932 photograph shows a stable of different size and

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roof configuration. The rectangular plan, shed-roofed building is sided with wood drop siding. Three openings provide access on the south elevation. The building is in deteriorated condition.

The property would also have contained one or more privies during the years it functioned as a school. There are no obvious structural remains on the surface, but undisturbed below ground sites may be present with the potential to yield archaeological information.

Though the club building has undergone significant changes since 1947, these changes represent the work of the Long Meadow Community Club in adapting the former schoolhouse to meet the needs of the organization and the community at large.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The Long Meadow Community Club Building is eligible for the State Register under Criterion A for its social and recreational history. As a meeting place of the Long Meadow Community Club, the building served as the center of community meetings, entertainment, social events, and charity work. The building consists of a former barracks joined in 1949 to the retired 1908 Long Meadow School. The women's club began meeting in members' homes in 1932 and did not have a permanent facility until purchasing the schoolhouse in 1947. The club is representative of many local organizations created to strengthen community ties and to provide informal social and recreational opportunities. Though small in size, the members of the Long Meadow Community Club have given much during the last seventy years to improve life in their own community and to meet the needs of others in Colorado, the nation and overseas.

Life was grim in Morgan County in 1932. The county, like the rest of the state and the nation, struggled in the economic grip of the Great Depression. Several years of drought and persistent winds had ruined crops and caused devastating dust storms. Travel was difficult and few had funds to venture far from home. It was in the midst of these dreary conditions that Annie (Mrs. Charles) Osborne invited a number of women who lived in the vicinity of the Long Meadow School to her house to talk about forming a club. She envisioned the women meeting a couple of times a month to visit and sew.

The Long Meadow community was settled in 1906 when homesteaders arrived from Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois. The community raised the Long Meadow Schoolhouse in the summer of 1908, nine miles south and two miles east of Corona (now Wiggins), Colorado. Seven pupils started to school that fall term. Community history attributes the naming of the school to a painter, who while working on the schoolhouse decided upon the name "Long Meadow."

Fourteen women responded to Annie Osborne's call and together they organized the Long Meadow Community Club. Monthly dues were established at five cents. Reba (Mrs. Frank)

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Viets was elected the first president. Meetings were held in club members' homes. Member sewing projects consisted mostly of hemming dishtowels and quilting, one quilt being made to sell for club funding. The main money-making event that first year was a dance held in the old Nile Ranch barn. Proceeds from lunches sold at that dance totaled \$9.85. Before year's end club membership grew to twenty-four.

Membership continued to grow the second year, reaching thirty-three. The sale of the quilt completed the year before netted \$21.20 from ten-cent raffle tickets. In another popular fund-raising program, club members prepared and sold lunches to the participants at area farm sales. A typical 25 cent lunch consisted of chicken and noodles served over mashed potatoes, with coleslaw, pie and coffee. Rumors abounded that some men attended farm sales mostly for the Long Meadow chicken dinners.

During the 1930s, club membership fluctuated between twenty-five and forty-four. The rains

eventually returned, the winds died down, and life became a little less strident in rural Morgan County. Those families who held on to their farms moved mounds of topsoil from the fence lines back into the fields. One of the greatest boosts to morale and the community economy was the arrival of rural electrification. Irrigation wells with electric pumps changed the whole picture of farming. Many who had given up dreams of a beautiful yard and a garden now saw their wishes fulfilled. Smaller farms with a variety of crops made for a growing community. Electric-powered farm machinery and household appliances brought a new lifestyle.

From the beginning, members participated in local and county projects. The club regularly took part in the Morgan County seed and flower shows and won many awards. A club square dance team won first in county competition and went on to the state contest. The Fall Festival in Wiggins was an annual event to which club members contributed from the 1930s to the 1970s. The women almost always entered a booth or a parade float—sometimes both. The club



Members of the Long Meadow Community Club in 1932. First row: Della Orr, Blanche Reed, Reathel Shoemaker, Alice Parsons, (unknown), Altaha (Sylvia) Busch, Tilda Richardson, (Gerald Richardson, son of Lucille). Second row: (unknown), Mabel Etter, Lucille Richardson, Anna Baer, (Bob Baer, Jr.). Third row: (unknown), Paulina Baer, Grace Duncan, Etta Maddox, Sula Rosener, Edna Tunks, (unknown), Marie De Boer, Reba Viets, Barbara Sebring. Source: Wiggins Historical Group. *Heritage of Wiggins*. Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1988.

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received numerous awards and ribbons for such items as their baked goods, home-canned items, embroidery, quilts and afghans. The organization received several plaques and cups for having garnered the largest number of blue ribbons. Many members provided leadership for the festival. For several years they took charge of the Festival Queen contest, and arranged publicity and advertising for the community affair.

The club's annual Christmas dinner and gift exchange became an early tradition. Another annual event is the bazaar to which members contribute their hand-made items, including pies, cakes, rolls, homemade noodles, and crafts. These events continue to this day.

In 1934, the club established a savings account with an initial deposit of \$25. The club has maintained a savings account ever since. As it was able, the group contributed to various funds and charitable calls. A tithe was once given to the Wiggins Church, but the practice was later discontinued because many members belonged to other local or Fort Morgan churches. Members gave generously when a disastrous South Platte River flood struck Wiggins and the surrounding area in 1935. Gifts for flood relief helped victims whose homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed.

By 1939, the group had become too large to be entertained in some homes. Since the club occasionally met in the American Legion's auxiliary clubrooms in Wiggins, the members decided to furnish the other half (the north side) of the building as their own clubroom. Much of the remodeling, painting, and general refurbishing was done by the members, with some more or less willing help from their husbands. Dishes and furniture, including a wicker set, a piano, and a kerosene stove were purchased. The room saw many happy times. The husbands were entertained and they, in turn, played hosts to their wives.

During World War II, the club actively supported the war effort. Members gave blood, saved fat, and sent books, supplies and Christmas gifts to army bases in Denver. Contributions were made to the Red Cross, army hospitals, clothing drives, the blood bank, and waste fat collections. Bonds were purchased, magazines were sent to military hospitals, and gift boxes were mailed to the young men and women in service. Gasoline rationing forced a reduction in meetings to only once a month, but the work went on. Club members sold war bonds, saved stamps, and took a first aid course. They also raised victory gardens to help with their food supply and many did farm work while the men were in the service. Several club members moved to a large city to work in the war plants.

Members' sons served in various branches of the armed forces. The Rosener, Busch, White, Richardson, Shoemaker, Zitnick, and Maddox families had sons in the military. All the young men finally returned safely, although the two Rosener brothers spent time in a German prisoner of war camp, having been shot down on bombing missions.

The club members began to think after the war about finding a permanent home for their activities. In 1947, many area school districts consolidated. The building then used by the club in Wiggins was needed for the newly organized RE 50-J district. The school consolidation resulted in the abandonment of many small rural school buildings. The Long Meadow School

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was one of the vacated facilities, its students being bused to Wiggins. Recognizing an opportunity, the club opened negotiations for the purchase of the building. The school board reluctantly agreed to leave the building in its existing location. All the other schoolhouses in the absorbed District 42 were moved into Wiggins and either converted for faculty housing or used for music or storage rooms. The board sold the Long Meadow building to the club. The underlying land belonged to the adjacent farmer, William Richardson. His wife, Tilda, was a charter member of the club and she persuaded her husband to grant the club a perpetual use agreement for the one-acre parcel of land occupied by the building.

The club used the one-room schoolhouse until 1949. In that year the members purchased one half of a surplus one-story army barracks at Buckley Field in Aurora for \$500. The 20' x 50' building was trucked the 60 miles to the school site at a cost of \$280. The former barracks was seated on a concrete block foundation and attached to the west side of the school building. The club purchased \$30 worth of lumber for the project. The interior spaces were connected and the expanded building could accommodate 50 to 60 people for dinners and bazaars. The Long Meadow Community Club finally had a permanent home.

In the years that followed, much time, energy and money went into improving the building. Forty-four members belonged in 1948-1950 and they organized fundraising activities to finish the new facility. They continued to serve at farm sales, had dip suppers, and sold cards, gifts, and food. The net results for the first year's efforts totaled \$848.48.

The interior of the building was completely redecorated. Knotty pine wainscoting and wall board were used on the former barracks to upgrade its original minimal interior finish. Husbands of the members and others who had more or less retired from farming and possessed some ability as carpenters did a lot of the heavy interior work. All of the members did a part in painting, sewing drapes, and general fix up. Asbestos siding was installed on the exterior to giving the joined buildings a more unified appearance. The last big project was the carpeting of the larger rooms. This made the space warmer and quieter. The end result was a pleasant, attractive space, large and well enough equipped for most purposes. The husbands of all members were welcome to use the clubroom. The community 4-H Club was granted free use of the space. It was available for community affairs as they might arise and at various times some Sunday school church groups used it as a meeting place. Until the precincts were reorganized it also served as a polling place.

The club tries always to live up to the standards of its founders. The members strike a balance between providing a pleasant social life for themselves and their families while remembering their obligation to the community. The sick and the sorrowing are remembered with flowers, gifts, or suitable memorials. New babies and newlyweds are recognized. The officers try each year to provide a program that will be something of interest to everyone. Each member is honored once a year at a special birthday luncheon. Every five years the club stages a large Anniversary Tea.

A special milestone was reached in 1982 when the club celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. A great deal of time and effort went into the planning. An attempt was made to locate and contact

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everyone who had ever belonged to the club. At the anniversary luncheon, many who had traveled quite a distance were able to renew friendships with members they had not seen for years. Several third generation members or guests attended and the young girls who waited tables were all daughters, or granddaughters, of members. Charter members were introduced from the head table. It was an afternoon that will not soon be forgotten by those in attendance.

Through the years, over one hundred women have been associated with the Long Meadow Community Club. Some have belonged for only a few months or years; a few for fifty years or more. Many have served as officers, some in every capacity and for multiple terms of office. All have helped when asked.

In 2002, the Long Meadow Community Club celebrated its 70th Anniversary with over 60 people attending. The club rooster includes eighteen members, including one 93-year-old charter member. The Long Meadow Community Club will continue to always live up to the last two lines of its collect—"Let us serve, as best we can, Our God, Our homes, Our fellow man."

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baer, Robert A. and Anna C. Baer. *History of Morgan County*. Unpublished manuscript, 1965.

Long Meadow Community Club secretary's book, July and August 1949.

Morgan County Tax Assessor's records, Morgan County, Colorado.

Property use agreement between William E. Richardson and the Long Meadow Community Club, June 20, 1947.

Weller, Sylvia. Oral interview by Nita Zimmerman, July 8, 2004.

Wiggins Historical Group. *Heritage of Wiggins*. Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1988.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nomination contains one acre of land in the Southwest Quarter, of the Southwest Quarter, of the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 2 North, Range 59 West, of the 6th P.M., to wit:

Beginning at the intersection of the east edge of Morgan County Road 6 and the north edge of Morgan County Road I, then traversing 174 feet, more or less, north along the east edge of County Road 6 to a fence line (this is the northwest corner), then traversing 250 feet east, more or less, to a second fence line (this is the northeast corner), then traversing south along said north-south fence line 174 feet, more or less, until the fence line intersects with the north edge of County Road I (this is the southeast corner), then traversing 250 feet west, more or less, along the north side of the road to its intersection with County Road 6, the point of beginning.

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-21:

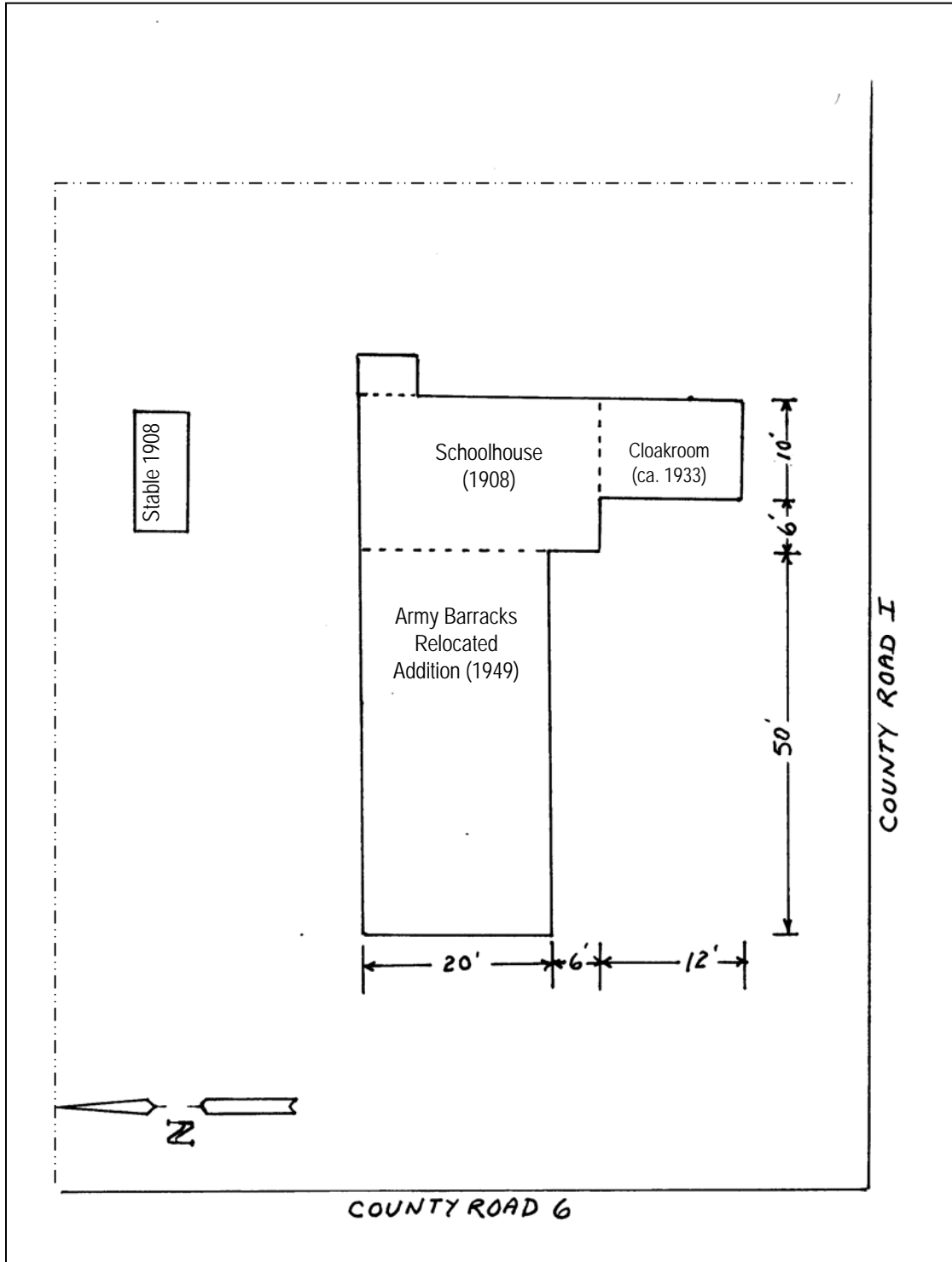
Photographer: Paul Zimmerman
Date of photographs: 10-2004
Location of negatives: Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation,
Colorado Historical Society

Photo No. Photographic Information

- 1 South elevation of original schoolhouse and portion of barracks addition; view to the north.
- 2 South elevation of original schoolhouse and barracks addition; view to the north.
- 3 Close-up of former school and cloakroom addition with sign; view to the north.
- 4 East elevation of schoolhouse with stable to rear; view to the northwest
- 5 North elevation of building; view to the south.
- 6 North and west elevation of barracks addition; view to the southeast.
- 7 West elevation of barracks addition; view to the east.
- 8 West and south elevations; view to the northeast.
- 9 South and east elevations of stable; view to the northwest.
- 10 Interior of former classroom toward kitchen (cloakroom); view to the south.
- 11 Kitchen; view to the south.
- 12 Former classroom from entry to barracks addition; view to the southeast.
- 13 Former classroom from kitchen; view to the north.
- 14 Close-up of flooring.
- 15 Entrance to barracks addition with arched painted mural; view to the northwest.
- 16 Entrance to barracks addition with arched painted mural; view to the west
- 17 Barracks addition interior; view to the west.
- 18 South wall of barracks interior showing wainscoting and original windows; view to the southwest.
- 19 Barracks addition interior; view to the east.
- 20 Wainscoting detail in addition; view to the south.
- 21 Window detail in addition; view to the south.

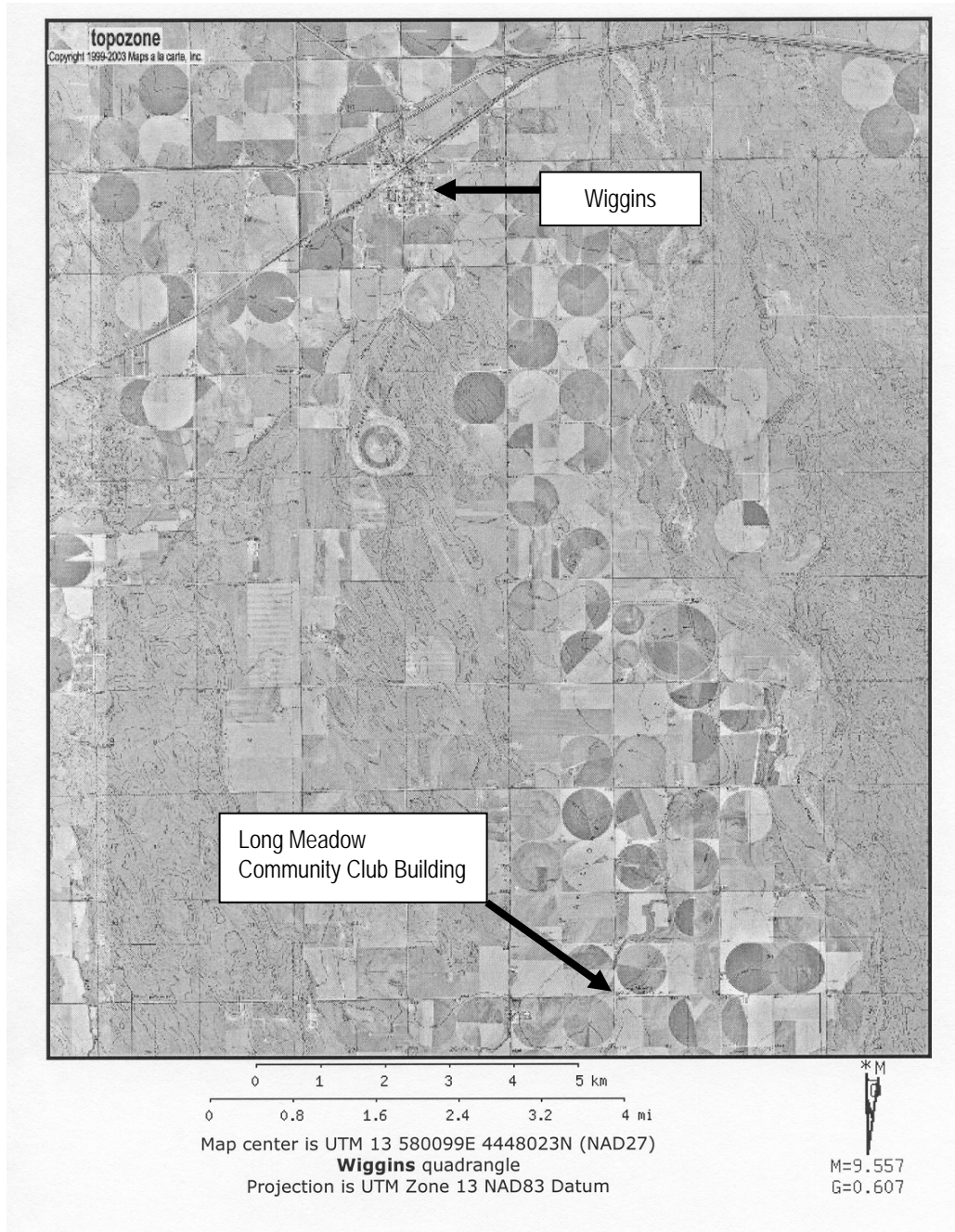
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SITE MAP
Not to Scale



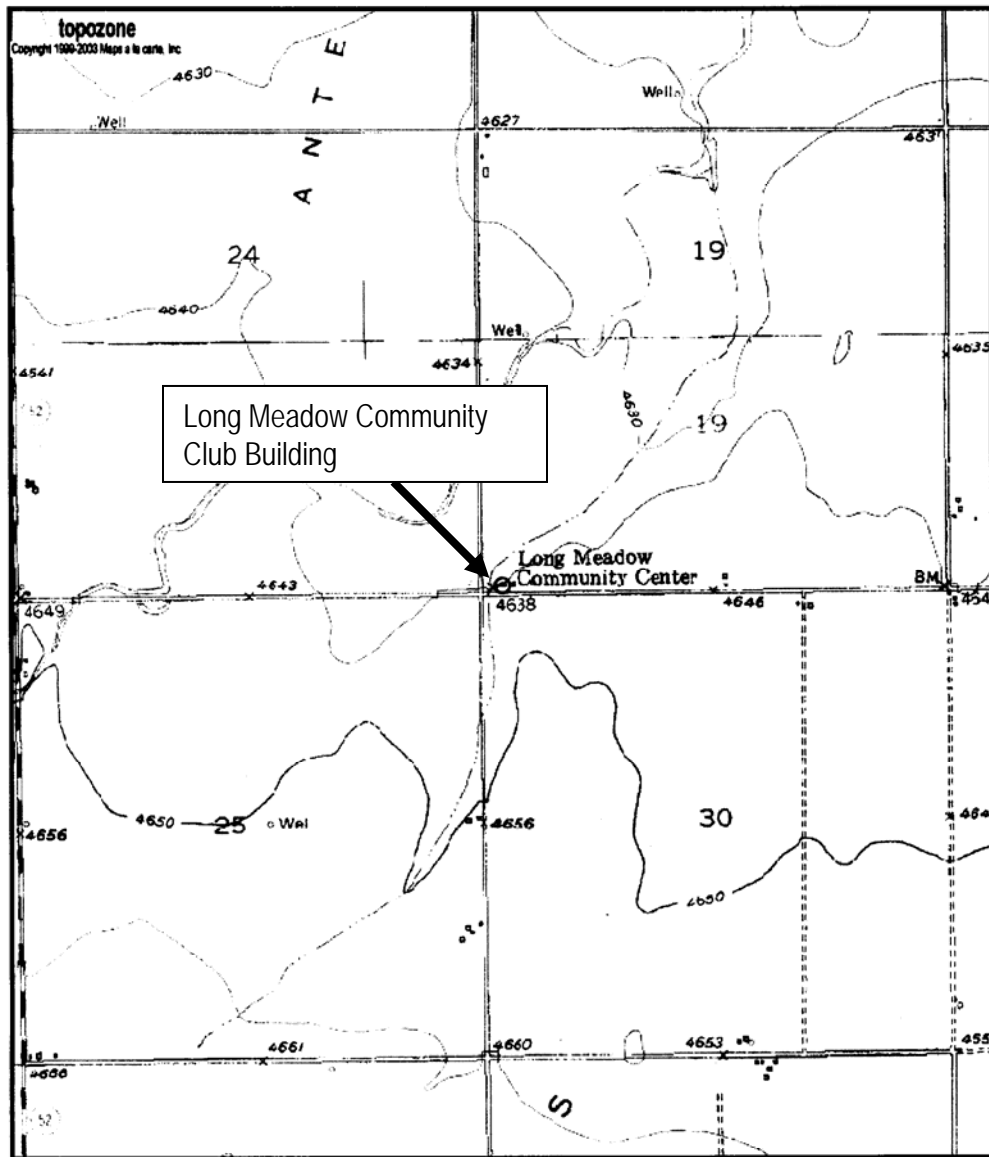
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AERIAL PHOTO OF WIGGINS AREA



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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Hoyt Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series (enlarged)



0 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 1.5 km
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 mi
Map center is UTM 13 582132E 4441012N (NAD27)
Hoyt quadrangle
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum

M
*M
M=9.557
G=0.621