

HISTORY COLORADO

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

SECTION I

Name of Property

Historic Name Sheridan Lake School

Other Names Kiowa Albright Memorial Center

Address of Property

[N/A] address not for publication

Street Address 619 Burnett Street (north side, between Colorado and Sheridan avenues)

City Sheridan Lake County Kiowa Zip 81071

Present Owner of Property

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

Name Kiowa Albright Memorial Center (Sharon Wilson)

Address P.O. Box 12223 Phone 719-729-3502

City Sheridan Lake State Colorado Zip 81036

Owner Consent for Nomination

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

Preparer of Nomination

Name R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, Historians (for owner) Date: 1 February 2013

Organization Front Range Research Associates, Inc.

Address 3635 W. 46th Avenue Phone 303-477-7597

City Denver State Colorado Zip 80211 Email fraden@msn.com Website www.frhistory.com

FOR OFFICIAL USE:

Site Number 5KW.46

12-3-2012 Nomination Received

Review Board Recommendation
 Approval Denial

HC Board State Register Listing
 Approved Denied

Listing Criteria A B C D E

Certification of Listing: President, History Colorado

Date

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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 Education/School

Current Recreation and Culture; Government/Post Office

Original Owner Kiowa County School District No. 3

Source of Information Kiowa County Press, 14 June 1929, 8

Year of Construction 1929

Source of Information Kiowa County Press, 14 June 1929, 8

Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer Charles E. Thomas (architect) and

Nels Larson (builder)

Source of Information Building dedication plaque

Locational Status

Original location of structure(s)

Structure(s) moved to current location

Date of move _____

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | Architecture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology – prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology – historic | <input 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 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) All Block 12 Addition Sheridan Lake

USGS Topographic Quad Map Sheridan Lake, Colo.

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: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Renaissance Revival

Period of Significance: 1929-62

Level of Significance: Local State National

Multiple Property Submission: N/A

Acreage Less than 1

P.M. 6th Township 18 S Range 44 W Section 25 Quarter Sections SE NW NE NE

UTM Reference: Zone 13 Easting 736225 Northing 4261105

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DESCRIPTION and ALTERATIONS

LOCATION AND SETTING

This building, erected in 1929 as the Sheridan Lake School, provided educational services for children in grades 1 through 12 from its opening until 1962 and served as a center for community events and activities, an ongoing function. The substantial Renaissance Revival style building is located on a prominent site at the northern edge of town, facing toward the community. From the street in front of the building a wide concrete sidewalk leads to the main entrance and a second sidewalk wraps around the exterior of the building on all sides (Photograph 1). A tall metal flagpole and a mail box stand next to the central sidewalk near the street. A dirt driveway bordered by railroad ties is adjacent to the sidewalk at the east end of the façade. Surrounding the school is a grass lawn. A variety of trees shade the lawn, including locusts and evergreens; the trees border the lawn in front of the building. On the west and northwest, the school grounds are now a park landscaped with concrete benches, playground equipment, and a picnic pavilion; a concrete basketball court lies north of the building. All of the aforementioned features were added after 1962. Across from the building agricultural land stretches to the west, containing metal silos, a barn, and farmhouses. Similar undeveloped land with an agricultural outbuilding is to the north, a row of one-story frame houses faces the school on the east, and much of the developed town is to the south.

DESCRIPTION

The Sheridan Lake School, now the Kiowa Albright Memorial Center, is a one-story brick building with a raised basement and a concrete foundation (Photographs 2 and 4). The walls are faced with buff-color textured brick laid in common bond. The basement walls display rusticated bands of brick and are terminated by a concrete water table with a slanted brick cap; the cap is cast stone at the corners of the building. The header courses provide additional horizontal banding for the upper story, as do the courses of differing textures. The flat-headed windows have concrete sills on the basement level and sloping brick sills on the first story. A brick frieze bordered by projecting courses of molded brick forming the architrave and cornice is found on the front, west, and east walls, which are crowned by a flat brick parapet topped with cast stone coping covered with metal. The symmetrical façade includes slightly projecting end bays flanking a wide central bay with a projecting entrance pavilion.

The wide center bay features a center, slightly projecting entrance pavilion with a round arch entrance (Photograph 3). The pavilion has brick piers rusticated at the basement level and displays decorative brickwork with diamond-shaped insets of brick above the arched lintel. Cast stone trim ornaments the pavilion, including a keystone above the entrance, band of three blocks ornamenting the frieze (with a course of projecting brick below), slanting cap on the water table, and projecting entablature above the entrance.¹ The inset entrance has glass block sidelights flanking a metal frame glazed door surmounted by a fanlight. A metal plaque is attached to the west wall of the entrance.² The entrance is accessed by concrete steps with brick sidewalls with concrete caps and with wrought iron railings. The basement level on each

¹ The architect's drawings indicated the three blocks of stone would have an inscription, but none was executed.

² The plaque reads: "ERECTED BY/SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3/KIOWA COUNTY/1929/SCHOOL BOARD/M.S. SEYMOUR PRESIDENT/P.O. MEYER SECRETARY/S.J. TINSLEY TREASURER/CHARLES E. THOMAS ARCHITECT/W.E. GOODE SUPERINTENDENT/NELS LARSON CONTRACTOR/THOS. BROWNING PLUMBING & HEATING/DEDICATED BY EADS MASONIC LODGE A.F.A.M."

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side of the entrance pavilion includes two tall windows filled with glass blocks, each aligned below a wide first story window. The two outer first story windows consist of tripartite windows with glass blocks above, while the windows adjacent to the pavilion are filled with glass blocks. Centered above the entrance on the stepped up parapet is a gray name block inscribed "SHERIDAN LAKE SCHOOL."³

Slightly projecting bays with brick quoins are found at each end of the façade (Photographs 2 and 4). These bays display two tall windows at the basement level aligned below a very large rectangular window on the first story. The east projecting bay has one-over-one-light double-hung sash basement windows and the first story window is filled with glass blocks surrounding a tripartite window. The west bay includes one window with a panel of glass blocks and one window modified to accommodate a metal door on the basement level, while the large first story window is filled with glass blocks. Other design features of the bays are identical. Each displays sections of brick parapet that originally flanked sections of parapet balustrade, which is gone.

The west wall continues the rustication of the basement level, slanted brick water table with cast stone at the corners, and cornice ornamentation. The basement level toward the north end contains three tall windows extending to grade; the windows are filled with glass blocks. The first story displays two large windows filled with glass blocks at the south end and two blank windows at the north end. There is a flat brick parapet with coping (Photograph 5).

The north (rear) wall continues the rusticated brickwork of the basement level, the rusticated quoins, and the slanted brick water table; there is no parapet (Photographs 6 and 7). The rear wall is divided into four bays by two stepped brick buttresses and a projecting full-height brick chimney. The first two bays at the west end each contain two tall windows filled with glass blocks on the basement level and two large first story windows filled with glass blocks. The third bay has one tall basement window filled with glass blocks adjacent to a concrete block projection with a sloped roof. The projection has a boarded up window on the west wall and a wood door on the north wall. The first story of the third bay of the main wing features a large window filled with glass blocks. The full-height chimney is adjacent to the final bay, which contains an original one-story, flat roof, brick projection with rusticated walls and a bricked in window on the north wall. Behind the projection, the wall of the main wing is blank (Photograph 8). The blank east wall of the brick projection is rusticated brick.

Adjacent, at the north end of the main wing is a projecting gabled roof frame addition with wide lap siding. The addition has metal pole supports and metal stairs from the ground leading to the first story. An entrance and a triple window are on the east wall of the addition (Photograph 9). The east wall of the main wing displays rusticated quoins and foundation, a sloping brick water table, and a brick cornice and parapet like the front wall. The basement level of the main wing has an entrance and covered up tall windows (three with glass blocks and one with a four-over-four-light double-hung sash) at the north end. The center bay of the main wing contains a slightly projecting entrance pavilion with rusticated brick walls, a cast stone entablature, and an inset entrance with a glazed metal frame door and glass block sidelights.

³ The architect's specifications indicated, "All details marked "Stone" in exterior brick walls shall be artificial stone of approved manufacture in coloring and finish as selected." The plaque inscribed with the school name appears to be gray stone, but may be cast stone. Charles E. Thomas, "General Specifications for Two Story Brick School Building for School District Number 3 at Sheridan Lake, Kiowa County, Colorado, revised 12 June 1929" TM [photocopy], p. 1, Special Collections, Pikes Peak Public Library, Colorado Springs, 11.

Property Name Sheridan Lake School

Above the entrance pavilion is a window filled in with brick. The south bay contains two tall one-over-one-light windows on the basement level and a wide tripartite window surmounted by glass blocks on the first story.

Interior

Most of the interior finishes are nonhistoric, and the layout has been redesigned in the post-1962 period to accommodate the post office and other current functions. From the front entrance a wide original staircase leads to the first floor lobby, which displays a historic blackboard. A wide hallway extends to the east and west through the building accessing the post office and rooms used by the community for activities and meetings. The former laboratory is now a game room with a pool table. The basement level includes the gymnasium (now with a lower ceiling and a concrete floor instead of the original wood) (Photograph 10) and a kitchen (in the former Domestic Science room), while the addition on the east houses a portion of the bowling alley added after the building became a community center.

Alterations

This building was erected in 1929 and the exterior remained essentially unchanged when the school closed in 1962. After that time, the building became a post office and community center, resulting in modifications to many of the windows and doors in the years since. In 1975 an elevated addition (roughly 22' x 13') on the east allowed creation of a three-lane bowling alley. The cornice-line balustrade between the projecting piers was removed after 1963. The small rear concrete block projection was built and the playground and picnic area on the school grounds were created after 1963 (Photograph 11).

Integrity

The Sheridan Lake School retains sufficient historical integrity to qualify for inclusion in the State Register of Historic Properties. The school has integrity of location, remaining in its original site at the northern edge of Sheridan Lake. The school retains moderate integrity of setting, being surrounded by dwellings and agricultural buildings and lands as it was historically. A picnic pavilion, playground, and basketball court were added to the block holding the school in recent years; the latter two structures are compatible with the historic and current functions of the building. The original design of the building conveying the Renaissance Revival style of the building remains apparent, impacted by the projecting frame addition on a portion of the east wall, a low concrete projection at the rear, and filling in of some windows, although the original fenestration is clearly discernible. The building retains a moderate degree of integrity of materials, displaying its original brick walls. The principal alteration to materials has been the replacement of windows and doors. The original workmanship is present to a high degree, including the highly skilled brickwork, which constitutes a defining characteristic of the building. A high level of integrity of feeling is present, conveying the importance of education within this small town and the desire to provide its children with a quality education. Likewise, integrity of association is retained, with the building providing a direct link to the history of the town whose children it educated for 33 years and for whom it continues to serve as a center of community life.

Property Name Sheridan Lake School

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The Sheridan Lake School is significant under Criterion A in the areas of education and social history. The school, which operated from 1929 to 1962, is important as the only extant historic school building in this small town on Colorado's eastern plains. The building is a testament to the efforts of the citizens of the community in this agricultural region who planned and paid for the construction of a new school despite the serious financial and environmental crisis they faced on the eve of the Great Depression. The building represents the importance of education in the lives of rural families, who at great personal cost erected this professionally designed and finely crafted Renaissance Revival style school to provide a modern facility ensuring local children received a quality education comparable to any in the county. As in many small towns across the country, the school also served as a center of social, cultural, recreational, and civic activities for the community.

Introduction

Founded in 1887, Sheridan Lake in eastern Kiowa County served as the county seat from 1889 until 1901, when Eads acquired the distinction. During the first two decades of the twentieth century, the population of the county increased more than fourfold due to an influx of mostly dryland homesteaders. In the mid-1920s economic and weather conditions for farmers and ranchers began a long decline. At the same time, the increased number of families with school age children, condition of existing educational facilities, new safety standards, changing demands of curriculums, and rising expectations motivated some county districts to erect new schools. Sheridan Lake School, completed in 1929, reflected the determination of the local populace to provide students with a sound building and a good education despite the challenging economic times. During the 1930s Kiowa County suffered from severe drought and dust storms, and its lands were included in the region identified as the Dust Bowl.

By 1920 Kiowa County included 37 school districts employing 60 teachers. Within the large county, most schools served small localized populations and consisted of one room. Only the larger schools at Eads, Haswell, Chivington, and Towner offered full high school courses, while Sheridan Lake provided only one year of upper level classes.⁴ During the 1920s Kiowa County's school districts consolidated to 19, with as many as 44 school buildings serving pupils.⁵ In 1930 the county included a total of 62 teachers who taught in 31 school buildings; the number of districts and students fell steeply during the remainder of the decade as families fought to survive the Great Depression.⁶ Nonetheless, the importance of education to farm families was reflected in full high school courses being offered at seven schools by the end of the decade.⁷

⁴Kiowa County Public Library, *A Kiowa County Album: Biographies of Pioneer Women, 1887-1920* (Holly, Colorado: Holly Publishing Co., 1984), 97.

⁵Tolbert R. Ingram, ed., *Year Book of the State of Colorado, 1927* (Denver: State Board of Immigration, 1927).

⁶Tolbert R. Ingram, ed., *Year Book of the State of Colorado, 1930* (Denver: State Board of Immigration, 1930), 212; Sarah Lancaster Eder, "History of the Office of Kiowa County Superintendent of Schools," in Roleta D. Teal and Betty Lee Jacobs, *Kiowa County* (Eads, Colorado: Kiowa County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), 311.

⁷Schools with twelve grades included Arlington, Brandon, Chivington, Eads, Haswell, Sheridan Lake, and Towner. Galatea also had a school offering ten grades. Lillie A. Herzog, "Kiowa County," in Colorado Press Association, Inc., comp., *Who's Who in Colorado* (Boulder: Colorado Press Association, Inc., 1938), 615.

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The Campaign for a New School

The first town to boom in Kiowa County and its first county seat, Sheridan Lake boasted a population of 400 residents and more than 30 businesses and professionals listed in the 1890 state business directory.⁸ In 1895 historian Frank Hall found “Sheridan Lake has the finest [school in the county], a large two-story frame building of modern design, and very nicely finished within and without at a cost of \$2,000.”⁹ By the turn of the century Sheridan Lake’s status had diminished along with its declining population; Eads captured the county seat in 1902. The school built during Sheridan Lake’s heady early days continued to serve students of the town and surrounding agricultural district until construction of a new building in 1929. In Sheridan Lake, as in many other communities of Kiowa County, the school served as both an educational facility and the “center of gravitation” and “the focal point for all social activities.”¹⁰ Articles in historic newspapers indicate the building housed community events such as frequent Saturday night dances, New Year’s masquerade balls, grange meetings, box suppers, luncheons, plays, and other entertainment open to all.¹¹

School census figures for Sheridan Lake indicate a substantial increase in pupil attendance during the 1920s.¹² With limited space to house students from primary to high school ages, teachers could not offer all of the coursework considered desirable for students of that era.¹³ In addition, the condition of the frame school did not meet advances in safety and comfort standards. The county experienced severe weather, including wind storms, snow, and freezing temperatures that made it difficult for students to get to school and uncomfortable to study in the building.¹⁴ By 1926 the monthly school report provided by Sheridan Lake teachers to the *Kiowa County Press* contained comments of concern about the condition and size of the facility.¹⁵ In February of that year, one article indicated, “Not even the days of melting snow in the attic, or the whistling of the wind in cracks” could detract from the students’ studies.¹⁶ In May the school notes acknowledged, “. . . we have no building to boast of.”¹⁷ In 1927 a school report mentioned science students were “handicapped” by not having proper equipment and also stated that “during the wind storm last Tuesday the school building shook some and the junior high school students went over to the primary room until the worst of the storm was past.”¹⁸ Apparently the building also lacked adequate heat; teachers observed students could

⁸ *Colorado State Business Directory*, 1890.

⁹ Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, vol. 4 (Chicago: Blakely Printing Co., 1895), 162-164.

¹⁰ Teal and Jacobs, *Kiowa County*, 210.

¹¹ *Brandon Bell*, 28 November and 19 December 1913, 20 February 1914, 5; *Colorado Farm and Ranch*, 18 December 1914, 1; *Kiowa County Press*, 26 October 1923, 4, and 14 May 1926, 1.

¹² In September 1923, 80 children attended Sheridan Lake School. *Kiowa County Press*, 28 September 1923, 1.

¹³ In 1926 the primary students studied in one room and the junior high students in a second room. *Kiowa County Press*, 10 September 1926, 1.

¹⁴ In 1931 a blizzard stranded Pleasant Hill school children aboard their school bus, resulting in the deaths of seven children and the driver. During the same storm, a bus transporting children to the Sheridan Lake School stalled, forcing the pupils to spend the night in an abandoned farmhouse before their parents came to the rescue. Having a warm, solid building for students was a necessity in Kiowa County. Teal and Jacobs, *Kiowa County*, 67.

¹⁵ Vern Harris indicated the old school had only two or three rooms. Harris, Telephone Interview, 30 November 2012.

¹⁶ *Kiowa County Press*, 12 February 1926, 4.

¹⁷ *Kiowa County Press*, 14 May 1926, 1.

¹⁸ *Kiowa County Press*, 18 February 1927, 4.

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not have plants in their classrooms because they would freeze at night.¹⁹

Gaining Community Support for a New School

Gladys Tinsley Hooker's family established an agricultural operation on land east of Sheridan Lake in 1921. Writing in 1976 she indicated, "The big two story building we started to school in was condemned and sort of swayed in the wind, but it was pretty hard to convince the community to go in debt for a new building . . ."²⁰ Former Sheridan Lake School student and town mayor Vern Harris concurs the building "was about done for" and a new school "was needed very badly."²¹

The movement to build a new school gained momentum in the mid-1920s, when the district presented bond issues to voters. In 1925 district voters were asked to approve bonds for a new school, which would allow for an up-to-date facility and expansion of the faculty to include a domestic science teacher and an instructor for the eighth grade students and "give us a much better school." The planned construction cost was \$30,000.²² Voters rejected the proposal. Again in January 1927 voters of the district assembled to determine whether to issue bonds to build a new schoolhouse. The 58 ballots submitted were equally divided for and against the proposal. Despite this setback, some community leaders immediately decided to call for another vote as soon as legally permissible.²³

Another two years elapsed before the majority of voters favored the expenditure. In March 1929 residents of the district voted overwhelmingly (46 to 10) to approve a bond issue for a new \$35,000 school.²⁴ The *Kiowa County Press* contained the teachers' report that the vote resulted in "quite a lively demonstration . . . staged as soon as the results became known. The bell was nearly torn from the old belfry. Auto horns resounded and a parade down main street made things lively for some time."²⁵ The school staff judged, "This will make it possible to erect a modern building adequate for the community and Sheridan Lake will take her rightful place among the up to date schools of the county."²⁶ By the end of the month district officials were looking for a site to build the new school and hoping to have the building ready by the beginning of the fall term.²⁷

Design and Construction of Sheridan Lake School

The school district acquired a full block of land at the north end of town and excavation of the building began. Architect Charles E. Thomas produced specifications and drawings for the construction in June. The call for bids required all work to be completed in 1929 and specified two contracts: one for plumbing and heating and another for all other work.²⁸ To save money, the concrete walls of the gymnasium, dressing rooms, heater room, and coal bin in the

¹⁹ *Kiowa County Press*, 26 April 1929, 7.

²⁰ Roleta D. Teal and Betty Lee Jacobs, *Kiowa County* (Eads, Colorado: Kiowa County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), 67.

²¹ Vern Harris, Sheridan Lake, Colorado, Telephone Interview by R. Laurie Simmons, 30 November 2012.

²² *Kiowa County Press*, 29 May 1925, 2.

²³ *Kiowa County Press*, 21 January 1927, 1.

²⁴ Voters also approved a \$25,000 bond. It is unclear why this was offered; perhaps as a less expensive alternative for school construction in case the higher bond did not pass.

²⁵ *Kiowa County Press*, 15 March 1929, 5.

²⁶ *Kiowa County Press*, 15 March 1929, 5.

²⁷ *Kiowa County Press*, 29 March 1929, 1.

²⁸ Thomas, "General Specifications," 6.

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basement were to be left exposed.²⁹ Contractors were instructed to give preference in hiring to veterans and local labor whenever possible.³⁰ By August the brickwork on the school was almost complete to the first floor and workers awaited the arrival of steel to continue their efforts.³¹ The district sold the old school building in November, and the new owner moved it to Main Street in Sheridan Lake, where it was rebuilt into a county tractor and truck garage.³² Workers completed the new building in the same month and the contractors received their final payments.³³

Architect Charles E. Thomas designed houses, schools, and public and commercial buildings in the Pikes Peak region and throughout the state during his long career. He was born in Columbus, Ohio, on 3 March 1876, the son of an English-born stonemason. In 1881 the Thomas family moved to Denver, where his father supervised the stonework of St. John's Cathedral. After attending school in the state capital, the younger Thomas received architectural training in the office of Dick Phillips beginning in 1893. He entered the employ of prominent Denver architect Franklin E. Kidder beginning in 1894, receiving an assignment to complete drawings for Kidder's book on construction. From that office he went to work for Robert Roeschlaub, a prolific architect of Denver schools. With Roeschlaub's recommendation, Thomas found employment with respected Colorado Springs architect Thomas MacLaren. He worked in MacLaren's office until 1904, when he embarked on a year of study with Boston and New York architecture firms.

Returning to Colorado Springs for his health in 1906, Thomas joined MacLaren in a partnership until 1917.³⁴ During 1909 the younger architect studied classical architecture in Europe. MacLaren and Thomas designed many houses for the Colorado Springs elite, several Masonic Temples, Durango's Smiley Junior High (5LP.1411.56, NRIS number 02001462) and several other schools in the state, libraries, churches, and a variety of other buildings. In 1917 Thomas served as mayor of Colorado Springs and continued his own practice, which included work associated with Spencer Penrose's properties and designs such as the Perkins-Shearer building in that city.³⁵ During 1929-30 Thomas also operated an office in Pueblo, according to city directories.³⁶ Ending his independent practice in 1946, Thomas joined a partnership with Gordan Sweet.³⁷ He served on the Colorado Board of Architectural Examiners for decades, including six years as its president.³⁸ The architect considered his most outstanding works to be Claremont/Trianon residence (5EP.186, NRIS number 77000374), Penrose Stadium at the Broadmoor, Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun (5EP.2175, NRIS number 94001229), and Shepard's Citations building (5EP.4536) in Colorado Springs, and the Holy Rosary Chapel (5EP.2210) in Cascade, Colorado. Thomas died in 1957 in Colorado Springs.³⁹

²⁹ Thomas, "General Specifications," 8.

³⁰ Thomas, "General Specifications," 3.

³¹ *Kiowa County Press*, 23 August 1929, 1.

³² *Kiowa County Press*, 22 November 1929.

³³ *Kiowa County Press*, 29 November 1929.

³⁴ *Colorado Springs Telegraph*, 22 July 1957, 1.

³⁵ R. Laurie and Thomas H. Simmons, *Selected Colorado Springs Architects and Builders of the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries* (Denver: Front Range Research Associates, Inc., August 2004), 9-10.

³⁶ Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, *Architects of Colorado: Database of State Business Directory Listings* (Denver: Colorado Historical Society, October 2006), 37-38.

³⁷ *Colorado History News*, February 1996, 4.

³⁸ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 7 March 1950, 13.

³⁹ *Colorado Springs Telegraph*, 22 July 1957, 1.

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Nels Larson of Denver served as contractor for the school, which was erected at a cost of \$26,600. Larson came to the United States in 1893 from Sweden and became a naturalized citizen in 1898. Larson and his wife Anna moved to Denver in 1927. The couple previously resided for many years in Haxtun, Colorado, where he served as contractor for the National Register-listed Shirley Hotel (NRIS number 02000263) and the Haxtun High School. Larson died in Denver less than a year after finishing the Sheridan Lake School, in October 1930.⁴⁰ Thomas Browning installed plumbing and heating for the school for \$2,000. Maj. Eugene Goode, an engineer who previously worked on a project in Eads, was designated superintendent of the project.⁴¹

Sheridan Lake School Opens

Students moved into their new school on 2 December 1929, when they participated in a full schedule of classes (see Figure 1). District Superintendent C.L. Rose announced, "This week marks the beginning of a new era for the Sheridan Lake school. This community can now boast of one of the best school buildings in Kiowa County." The building included "five splendid class rooms, a study hall, office and library room, laboratory, domestic science room, a fine gymnasium with a basket ball court 35 X 60 feet and a stage 12 X 35 feet." The classrooms, study hall, office and library, and laboratory occupied the first story, while the gym, domestic science room, toilets, and boiler and coal rooms were housed in the basement.⁴² An intermediate teacher observed, "We are enjoying our new school house very much. Our room is cheerful and convenient. Attendance will probably be better now, as it was impossible to keep our room in the old school house warm on cold days." Superintendent Rose wrote, "We feel very proud of our new building and we very much appreciate the cooperation of our patrons in the things we are trying to do."⁴³ In 1976 Grace Tinsley Hooker reported, "Dad was on the school board and it still gives me a thrill to see his name on the corner stone...."⁴⁴

Students and the community quickly filled the schoolhouse with their activities. Of major importance was the new gymnasium, where students undertook physical training and athletic contests were held. Sheridan Lake, like other larger schools in the county, sponsored both girls' and boys' basketball teams during the 1920s and 1930s. Most of the community gathered in the gymnasium on Friday nights to watch the games played by teams of both genders.⁴⁵ In addition, a town team of local residents formed and practiced in the facility.⁴⁶

After the Domestic Science classes were phased out, the school used the kitchen equipment to offer hot lunches for students.⁴⁷ The new gymnasium and stage provided a location for awards ceremonies, commencement exercises, speeches, band concerts, and plays. The school continued to be the location of luncheons and dinners, open houses, P.T.A. meetings,

⁴⁰ *Haxtun [Colorado] Harvest*, 8 October 1930.

⁴¹ Charles E. Thomas, "General Specifications for Two Story Brick School Building for School District Number 3 at Sheridan Lake, Kiowa County, Colorado, revised 12 June 1929" TM [photocopy], p. 1, Special Collections, Pikes Peak Public Library, Colorado Springs; *Kiowa County Press*, 29 March 1929, 1.

⁴² Charles E. Thomas, Architect, "Sheridan Lake School," Drawings of Lower Floor Plan and First Floor Plan, 1929, Architectural Drawings, Special Collections, Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs.

⁴³ *Kiowa County Press*, 6 December 1929.

⁴⁴ Roleta D. Teal and Betty Lee Jacobs, *Kiowa County* (Eads, Colorado: Kiowa County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), 67.

⁴⁵ *Kiowa County Press*, 14 February 1930.

⁴⁶ *Kiowa County Press*, 24 January 1930, 6.

⁴⁷ Harris, Telephone Interview, 30 November 2012.

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parties, and entertainments attended by parents and the community.⁴⁸ Gladys Tinsley Hooker recalled the community dances held in the gym of the new school.⁴⁹ Vern Harris states, "Everything was based around the school."⁵⁰

Within the substantial new building Sheridan Lake was able to offer a full course of high school classes for the first time. Included were such newer and vital components of the curriculum as Domestic Science. The entire high school enrolled in the General Science class after the building opened.⁵¹ The Brandon School eventually consolidated with Sheridan Lake and moved its students into the building.⁵² Vern Harris observes that the opening of the new school caused many of the little country schools of one or two rooms to be closed and their students to attend Sheridan Lake. He reported that within a few years the student census at Sheridan Lake rose to 120 children.⁵³

Closing of the Sheridan Lake School and Later Community Activities

In 1961 school administrators reached an agreement to consolidate the schools of Sheridan Lake and Towner as Kiowa County School District RE-2 and erect a new building serving both communities known as Plainview. The District occupied the new building in November 1962 and vacated the Sheridan Lake School, with part of the building leased as the town's U.S. Post Office (see Figure 2). Local community members organized the nonprofit Kiowa Albright Memorial Center to convert the building for recreational and historical activities. The name honored Kiowa Albright, the first white child born in Kiowa County (on 4 August 1889). Until 1973 the organization leased the building from the school district for \$1 per year.

In 1973, the Kiowa Albright Memorial Center acquired the school and the land.⁵⁴ Facilities in the building today include meeting rooms, game room, three-lane bowling alley, gymnasium, kitchen, and bathrooms, as well as the local post office. The building is used for a variety of events, including birthday parties, reunions, family gatherings, potluck dinners, group meetings, holiday celebrations and weddings. The bowling alley serves men's, women's, and mixed leagues and holds a tournament raising funds for the center by attracting regional bowlers. Community members are not charged for using the Kiowa Albright Memorial Center, which is supported by donations, grants, fundraisers, and volunteer labor.⁵⁵

⁴⁸ *Kiowa County Press*, 23 February and 18 May 1951, 1.

⁴⁹ Teal and Jacobs, *Kiowa County*, 67.

⁵⁰ Harris, Telephone Interview, 30 November 2012.

⁵¹ *Kiowa County Press*, 24 January 1930, 6.

⁵² Zelpha Woelk, Kiowa Albright Memorial Center, Sheridan Lake, Interview by R. Laurie and Thomas H. Simmons, 12 September 2012.

⁵³ Harris, Telephone Interview, 30 November 2012.

⁵⁴ Barbara McDaniel, Secretary, Kiowa Albright Memorial Center, Colorado Historical Society Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Architectural Inventory Form: 5KW46, Sheridan Lake School, 1 October 1994.

⁵⁵ Woelk, Interview, 12 September 2012.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area includes the entire block historically associated with the Sheridan Lake School: Block 12, Sheridan Lake, bounded by Colorado Avenue on the west, Leo Street on the north, Sheridan Avenue on the east, and Burnett Street on the south.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to all current photographs:

Name of Property: Sheridan Lake School

Location: 619 Burnett Street

Photographer: Thomas H. Simmons

Digital Images: CO_Kiowa_SheridanLakeSchool_0001 through _0011

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

1 of 11, CO_Kiowa_SheridanLakeSchool_0001, the school and its setting from south side of Burnett Street, view north, September 2012.

2 of 11, CO_Kiowa_SheridanLakeSchool_0002, the front (south) and east walls, view northwest, August 2009.

3 of 11, CO_Kiowa_SheridanLakeSchool_0003, entrance detail, view north, September 2012.

4 of 11, CO_Kiowa_SheridanLakeSchool_0004, front (south) and west walls, view northeast, September 2012.

5 of 11, CO_Kiowa_SheridanLakeSchool_0005, west wall, view east, September 2012.

6 of 11, CO_Kiowa_SheridanLakeSchool_0006, rear (north) and west walls from playground, view southeast, September 2012.

7 of 11, CO_Kiowa_SheridanLakeSchool_0007, rear (north) wall with the basketball court in the foreground, view south, September 2012.

8 of 11, CO_Kiowa_SheridanLakeSchool_0008, rear (north) wall with the one-story section in the foreground and part of the east wall at left, view southwest, September 2012.

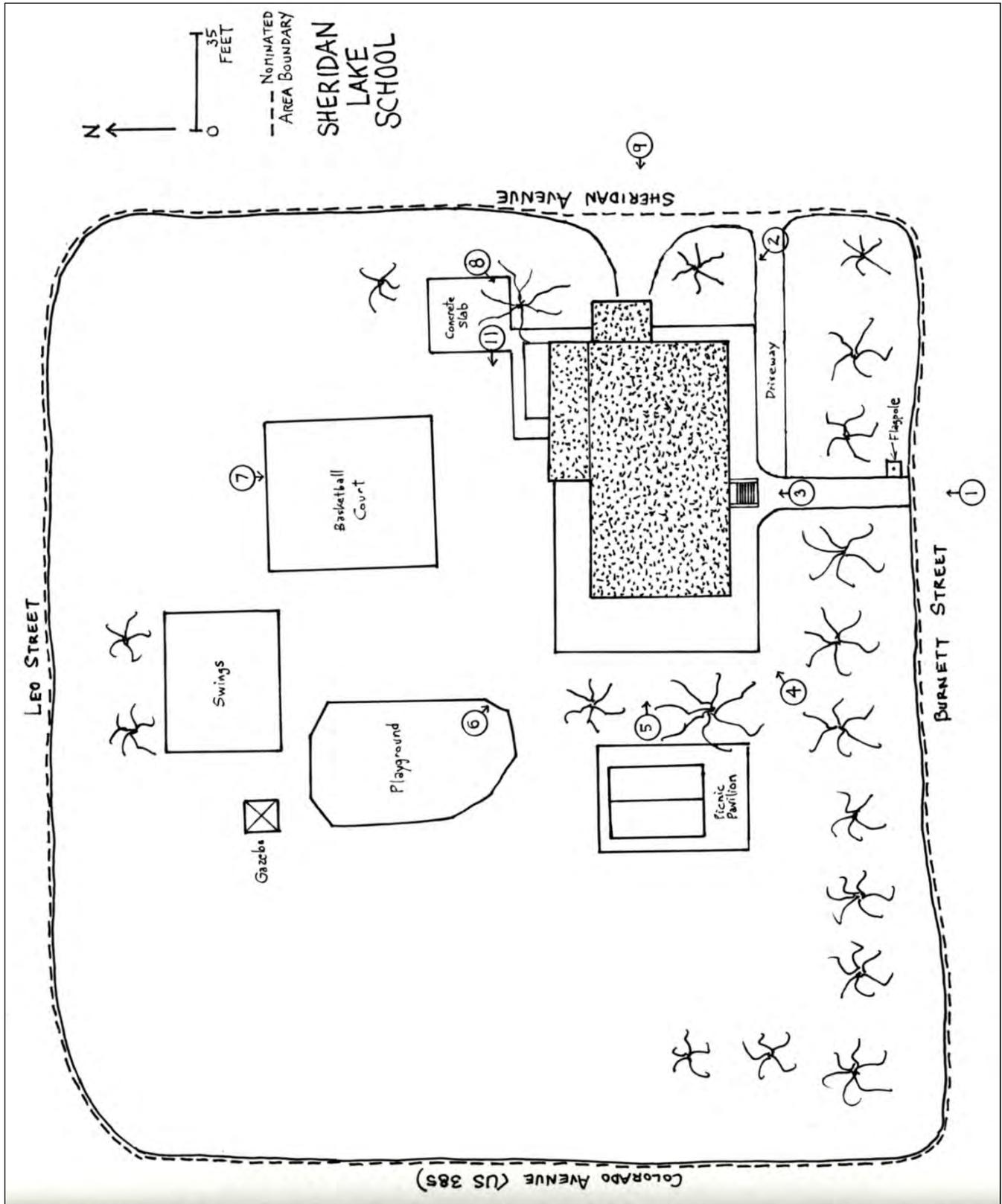
9 of 11, CO_Kiowa_SheridanLakeSchool_0009, east wall, view west, September 2012.

10 of 11, CO_Kiowa_SheridanLakeSchool_0010, interior of gymnasium on the lower level, view northwest, September 2012.

11 of 11, CO_Kiowa_SheridanLakeSchool_0011, rear of school to left and playground and basketball court to right, view west, September 2012.

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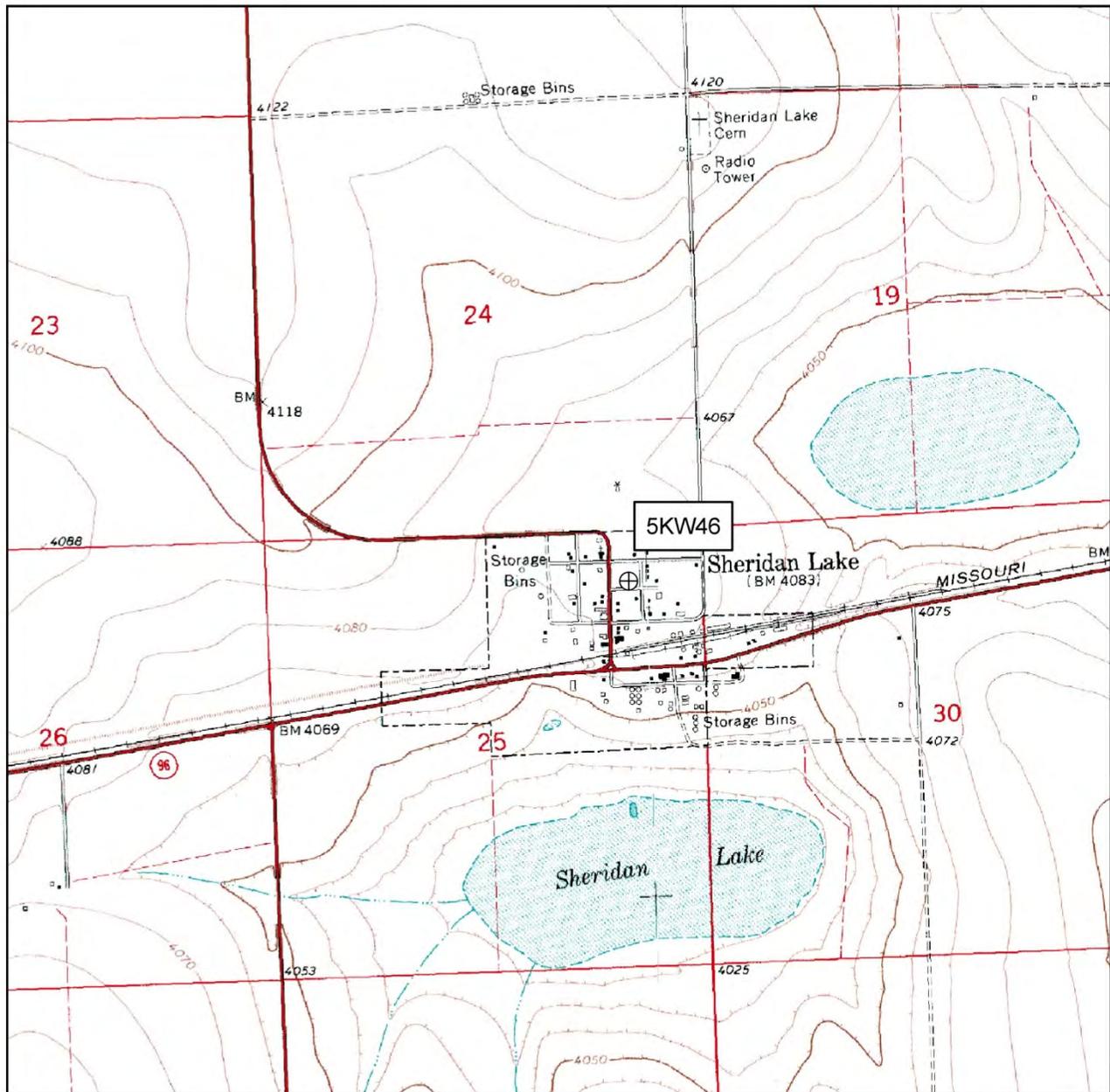
SKETCH MAP



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

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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Sheridan Lake, Colo., Colorado
7.5 Minute Series



0 825 1,650 2,475 3,300 Feet

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

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HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH/FIGURE LOG

1 of 2, In this undated but apparently early view, the Sheridan Lake School displays its original windows, doors, roof balustrades, and wrought iron scrolls flanking the entrance (view east-northeast). Courtesy of Kiowa Albright Memorial Center, Sheridan Lake, Colorado.

2 of 2, Classes had ended forever and the U.S. Post Office occupied part of the building in this 1960s or 1970s photograph of the Sheridan Lake School (view north). Some windows and doors were altered by this time. Courtesy of Kiowa County Public Library, Eads, Colorado.

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Figure 1. In this undated but apparently early view, the Sheridan Lake School displays its original windows, doors, roof balustrades, and wrought iron scrolls flanking the entrance (view east-northeast). Courtesy of Kiowa Albright Memorial Center, Sheridan Lake, Colorado.

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Figure 2. Classes had ended forever and the U.S. Post Office occupied part of the building in this 1960s or 1970s photograph of the Sheridan Lake School (view north). Some windows and doors were altered by this time. Courtesy of Kiowa County Public Library, Eads, Colorado.