



Meeting Date: May 3, 2023

AGENDA MEMORANDUM

To: Historic Preservation Board Members

From: Brad Boland, AICP, Long Range Project Manager
Development Services

Title: **National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Castle Rock Elementary School Amendment (5DA.342) located at 3rd and Cantril St. in Castle Rock, CO (Douglas County)**

Executive Summary

In preparation of the Town's purchase of the Cantril School (320 Cantril St.), the Town enlisted Scheuber + Darden Architects with putting together a cultural survey for the property. The property had been put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 and was found to meet Criterion C for its architectural significance. With the completion of the cultural survey, it was determined that the property also met Criterion A for its local historical significance in the area of education. With the submittal of the cultural survey, as required, to the State Preservation Office, a nomination to amend the National Register of Historic Places listing to incorporate the local historical significance of the property was initiated. A hearing by the State Review Board will be held on May 19, 2023. In accordance with Colorado's Certified Local Government guidelines, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places must be presented to the local historic preservation commission and the chief elected official for review and comment.



Background

Built in 1897, Cantril School (the historic name within the National Register is Castle Rock Elementary School, with Cantril School listed as the common name), is a two story, Italian Villa style building with a three-story tower bell tower. The original building was L-shaped with the tower inset in the right angle of the L. For a more detailed description on the architecture of the building please see 1984 Nomination Form (Attachment B)

The Cantril School played a significant role in the education of Castle Rock and Douglas County residents as it was the primary schoolhouse within the county and the first to offer high school courses. Prior to the opening of Cantril School, children seeking a high school education would have to travel to and live in either Denver or Colorado Springs. Cantril School's period of most significance spanned from 1897 to 1907. Douglas County High School was built in 1907 and reduced the overall student population of the school. The local support for the school was significant to the history of the Town as it represented the community's investment in education during this time period. Cantril would serve primary and junior high students until 1961 when the Castle Rock Junior High opened. Various grades were hosted at Cantril School from 1961 and 1967. From 1968 to 1983 the school housed Kindergarten through third grades. Since 1984, Douglas County School District has used the building for offices and training. For a more detailed account of the history of Cantril School please see the 2023 Nomination Amendment (Attachment B).

When a property is nominated for the National Register of Historic Places, it is evaluated on its significance, age (generally at least 50 years old), and its integrity (does it still look much the way it did in the past?). A properties significance could fall within four criteria.

Criteria A: Is the property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history?

Criteria B: Is the property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past?

Criteria C: Does the property embody the distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction? Is it architecturally significant?

Criteria D: Has the property yielded or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory?

In 1984, the property was put on the National Register of Historic Places based on the property meeting Criteria C due to its architectural significance. Through the assemblage of a cultural survey, it is proposed that the Cantril School building is historically significant in its role in education in the Town of Castle Rock and Douglas County and meets Criteria A for the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed amendment to the Cantril Schools listing on the National Register of Historic Places would document that history.

Budget Impact

There is no budget impact.

Recommendation

Staff agrees that the Cantril School played a significant role in the educational history of the Town of Castle Rock and Douglas County. Therefore, staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Board support the amendment.

Proposed Motion

Option 1: Amendment meets the criteria

"I move to have the Historic Preservation Board recommend that the Cantril School meets Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places"

Option 2: Amendment fails to meet the criteria

"I move to have the Historic Preservation Board recommend that the Cantril School does not meet Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places" (list reasons why)

Option 3: No recommendation

"I move to have the Town of Castle Rock Historic Preservation Board not make a recommendation" (list reasons why)

Attachments

Attachment A: 1984 Nomination Form

Attachment B: 2023 Nomination Amendment

Attachment C: Nomination Review Form