

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received AUG 22 1984

date entered SEP 20 1984

1. Name 5DA342

historic Castle Rock Elementary School

and/or common Cantril School

2. Location

street & number 3rd & Cantril Street n/a not for publication

city, town Castle Rock n/a vicinity of

state Colorado code 08 county Douglas code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Douglas County School District R.E. 1/Dr. R. O'Connell, Superintendent

street & number 217 Gilbert

city, town Castle Rock n/a vicinity of state Colorado

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Douglas County Courthouse

street & number 301 Wilcox

city, town Castle Rock state Colorado 80104

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate November 4, 1982 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Colorado Historical Society (Preservation Office)

city, town Denver state Colorado 80203

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Castle Rock Elementary School, of rock-faced rhyolite, looks out over the small community of Castle Rock, Colorado, from the top of "schoolhouse hill." The prominent location, combined with its masonry construction, creates an impressive image on the landscape of the town, located some thirty-five miles south of Denver. This structure, built in 1897, is two story, Italian Villa in its style. It consists of a L-shaped main block, with a three-story tower inset in the right angle of the L. Elements featured in its Italianate design are a round arched entrance on the front (west) facade, brackets under the wide bellcast roof eaves as well as the tower which extends above the roof line.

The first four or five above-ground courses are all matching pink rhyolite.¹ Pink, the rarest in its pure form, was used to form a border and the base of the school. The tan, with some tan/gray blend rhyolite, is used for the remainder of the structure. All stones are squared with rough-cut faces laid in regular, but sometimes broken, continuous courses. The pointing between the stones have tooled beaded joints. In the case of the pink band, the mortar is dyed pink as well.

The forward wing of the original two-story building has six identical bays. Typically the windows are double hung below a stone mullion with transom panels above. The recessed wing, comprising the southern extent of the original building, is three bays wide. Each floor is identical in its placement of windows, with the exception of one window on the second floor that has been converted into a fire escape and for one window at each level that flank the tower.

The tower is set in the corner where the two L wings of the building join. The formal entrance to the school is through this bell tower and is composed of a round arch with a decorated keystone and radiating voussoirs. The arch terminates in foliated imposts. The open arch leads into a small vestibule with the double entry door set into the wall of the recessed wing.

The second floor of the tower has two transomed windows on the front wall matching those of the main block. The third floor is an open bell tower with two arched openings on each side of the tower. It is capped by a bellcast medium pitched roof with bracketed eaves, matching that on the original block.

A one-story stone addition was built in 1930-31 on the north end of the main block.² Many of the features of the original building were incorporated into the 1930 design, such as the use of transomed windows, arched entranceway, and the pitch of the bellcast roof.

¹The rhyolite stone was mined in the quarries of the Castle Rock area. Quarried exclusively in Douglas County, the stone has been used extensively throughout the Front Range region.

²The contractor for the 1930 addition was Benjamin T. Saunders.

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Castle Rock Elementary School, Douglas County, CO

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

Another one-story addition with raised basement of cinderblock was built on the northeast side in the mid-1950s. A one-story addition used for bathroom facilities was built on the southeast side in 1961.

The interior still retains its original hardwood oak floors, twelve foot ceilings, oak woodwork, and wainscoting. Interior alterations include bathroom remodeling, and modernization of certain areas.

Despite the various additions made over the years, Castle Rock Elementary retains its visual integrity. The school, surrounded by stately cottonwoods and a square block of grassed open space, fittingly crowns the hill overlooking the town and county it has served over the past eighty-seven years.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1896–97 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Prominently located on a hill overlooking the community of Castle Rock, Castle Rock Elementary School stands as the town's finest example of stone construction and the area's best illustration of the Italian Villa style. Built in 1897, the building is unmatched in the area for its quality of workmanship and design in the use of stone.

When the agricultural and ranching town of Castle Rock became the seat of government for Douglas County in 1874, rhyolite was already beginning to be an important resource for the community. In time, three major quarries would be established: the Madge, the O'Brien/Hathaway, and the Santa Fe. All three had access to the railroads; two to the Denver and Rio Grande, and one to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe. Shipments were made to an area from Canon City to Cheyenne and as far east as Kansas City. Denver and Colorado Springs made extensive use of the stone in construction of many of their landmark buildings.¹

Many Castle Rock structures were built of rhyolite with it so readily available from the quarries near town. Two public buildings of striking architectural significance were constructed of the material. The first, built in 1889–90, was the Douglas County Courthouse, and the second was Castle Rock Elementary School in 1896–97. The buildings faced each other across the intervening space occupied by the town and visually emphasized the importance of local government and education to the town and county. Of these two important landmarks, only the school remains. (The courthouse burned in March 1978.) Other historic buildings constructed in rhyolite include two commercial structures in the downtown, two churches, and several residences.

When constructed in 1897, Castle Rock Elementary originally functioned as the first county-wide school for Douglas County. It offered grades 1–12 until 1912 when Douglas County High School was built in Castle Rock. At that time, Castle Rock Elementary contained grades 1–8, which it continued to offer until 1961. From 1961 to 1968, it was used for grades 1–6. From 1968 to 1984, the school offered kindergarten through the third grade. In 1984, the building was converted into office space for the Douglas County School District.

The size of the school, along with its public use, age, architectural style and visual impact of its location, make it the most important historic building in the community.

¹J. H. Rose, "Quarries of the Castle Rock Area," Colorado Magazine

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lowenburg. Robert. Castle Rock, A Grass Roots History.

J. H. Rose. "Quarries of the Castle Rock Area." Colorado Magazine.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property one acre

Quadrangle name Castle Rock

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	3
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5	1	2	4	7	0
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4	3	5	7	9	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 11. (The legal boundary of the school is comprised of the entire block.)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bob Lowenburg
Linda A. Bell, President

organization Douglas County Historical Society date November 30, 1983

street & number 7 Memmen Drive
3039 Haystack Road telephone (303) 688-9740 or 688-2904

city or town Castle Rock state Colorado 80104

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Barbara Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8-14-84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-20-84

for Melorus Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Castle Rock Elementary School
Douglas County
COLORADO

Working No. AUG 22 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85
Date Due: 9/20/84 - 10/6/84
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-20-84
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

- ☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Property Name: Castle Rock Elementary School
Location: Castle Rock, Colorado(Douglas County)
Photographer/Date: Gloria Mills/July, 1984
Negative: Office of Archaeology and Historic
Preservation,1300 Broadway,Denver
Camera Direction: View looking east
Photo No.: 1



Property Name: Castle Rock Elementary School
Location: Castle Rock, Colorado(Douglas County)
Photographer/Date: Gloria Mills/July, 1984
Negative: Office of Archaeology and Historic
Preservation, 1300 Broadway, Denver
Camera Direction: Viewing southeast (1930s
wing shown at left).
Photo No.: 2



Property Name: Castle Rock Elementary School
Location: Castle Rock, Colorado (Douglas County)
Photographer/Date: Gloria Mills/July, 1984
Negative: Office of Archaeology & Historic
Preservation, 1300 Broadway, Denver
Camera Direction: View looking northeast
Photo No.: 3

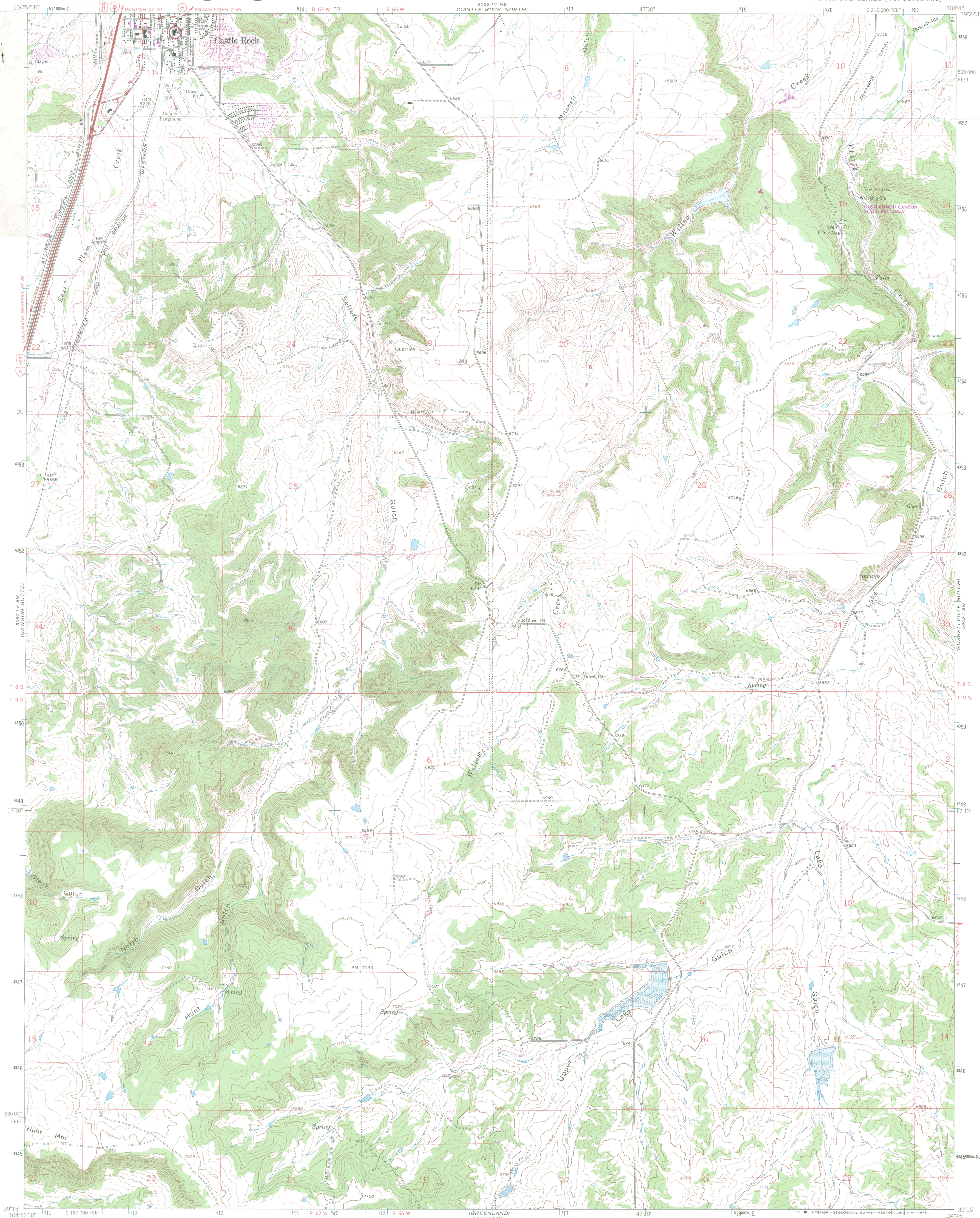
CANTRIL SCHOOLHOUSE
Castle Rock, Colorado (Douglas County)
UTM REFERENCE:
A: 13/512470/4357960

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



INTER-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

CASTLE ROCK SOUTH QUADRANGLE
COLORADO-DOUGLAS CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

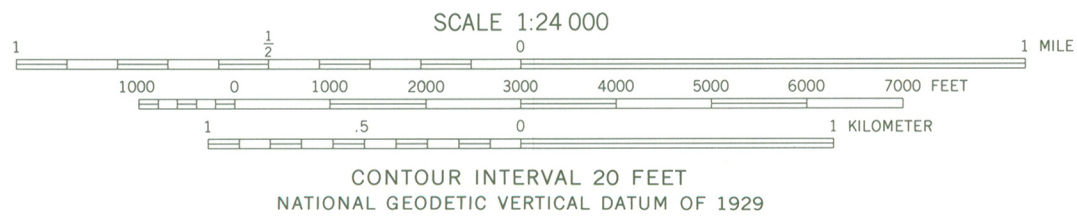
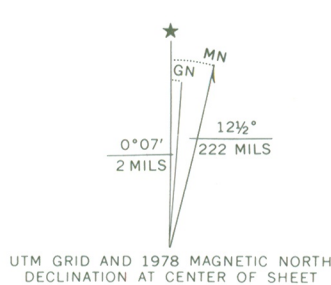
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1965

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Colorado coordinate system, central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 13, shown in blue

Areas covered by dashed light blue pattern are subject
to controlled inundation

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1975 and other source data. This information not
field checked. Map edited 1978



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

CASTLE ROCK SOUTH, COLO.
N3915-W10445/7.5

1965
PHOTOREVISED 1978
DMA 5062 IV SE-SERIES V877

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries
of the National or State reservations shown on this map

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT Re. 1

131 Wilcox Street

Castle Rock, Colorado 80104

[303] 688-3195

Dr. Richard O'Connell
Superintendent

March 23, 1984

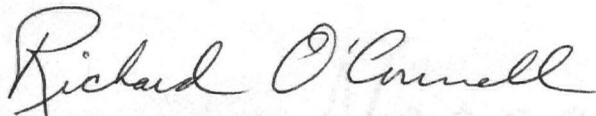
APR 9 1984

Colorado Historical Society
Preservation Office
Attn: Gloria Mills
1300 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203

NOMINATION OF CANTRIL SCHOOL HISTORIC SITE

On Tuesday, March 20, the Douglas County Board of Education took unanimous action to support the nomination of the Cantril School building in Castle Rock for listing on the state inventory of historic sites and the National Register of Historic Places. Application for listing has been made by the Douglas County Historical Society, and the Board of Education gives approval to continue the nomination process.

If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to call.



Dr. Richard O'Connell
Superintendent

hs

cc: Linda Bell
Douglas County Historical Society