

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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

## 1. Name of Property

historic name HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

other names / site number WALSENBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL; 5HF.2183

## 2. Location

street & number 415 WALSEN AVE. N/A not for publication

city or town WALSENBURG N/A vicinity

state COLORADO code CO county HUERFANO code 055 zip code 81089

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this [ X ] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [ X ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [ X ] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet.)

Georgina Cantuigla 9/9/05  
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Ebson Beall

11.2.05

HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  
Name of Property

HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO  
County and State

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**

(Check as many as apply)

☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources  
previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION / school

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:  
  
Late Gothic Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other  
other

**Narrative Description**

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

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Property HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

**Description of the Property and Surroundings**

The 1920 Huerfano County High School is found along Walsen Ave. in the north-central area of the southern Colorado town of Walsenburg. Located along the southwest side of the street between W. Elm St. and W. Spruce St., the property consists of a rectangular parcel of land oriented lengthwise on a northwest-southeast axis. The middle of the site contains the three-story 1920 school building, which faces onto Walsen Ave. This building dominates the property and is its primary contributing feature, together with the surrounding landscaped grounds. To the northwest of this building, and connected to it by an enclosed one-story causeway, is the 1976 gymnasium addition together with the one-story locker room/weight room addition that attaches to the rear of both buildings. While connected minimally to the original school, these more recent additions are non-compatible in terms of their relationship to the design of the original building.

Surrounding the Huerfano County High School are landscaped grounds with sidewalks, grass and mature trees on the northeast and southeast. Southwest of the building is a paved schoolyard with basketball courts, bordered by a chain-link fence that marks the southwest boundary of the nominated property. South of the school, in the southwest corner of the site, is the small L-shaped Tioga School building, which was constructed at another location in 1920 and moved onto this site in 1955. Because it was moved from its original location, and due to the fact that it has been significantly altered on the exterior, this building is considered to be non-contributing.

Beyond the nominated boundary lines of the Huerfano County High School, the site is surrounded by W. Elm St. to the northwest, Walsen Ave. to the northeast, W. Spruce St. to the southeast, and the school football field to the southwest. The field, while part of the overall school property, has changed over the years to the point that it has lost the more significant elements that previously underpinned its integrity. This area is therefore not included as part of the nominated site.

In general, the Huerfano County High School building exhibits a good degree of historic integrity through its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The building was until recently used for mid-level public education under the name Walsenburg Middle School but is now vacant. Major changes to the property since 1920 are predominantly limited to placement of the Tioga School building in the southwest corner of the site in 1955 and construction of the adjacent gymnasium and locker room/weight room additions in 1976. Although present on the site today, these features have not detracted from the original school building's historic character, appearance and integrity.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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### Description of the High School

The 1920 Huerfano County High School, with a footprint of 58' x 156', is a large asymmetrical rectangular building that is categorized stylistically as Late Gothic Revival, in this case more appropriately termed Collegiate Gothic. Fronting prominently toward the northeast, the three-story masonry building rises from a below-grade poured concrete foundation and is finished on the exterior with reddish-brown bricks laid in common bond coursing. Every seventh course of brickwork consists of alternating headers and stretchers. The walls are broken up by the presence of numerous pairs and bands of windows that minimize the amount of brickwork and emphasize the building's horizontal appearance.

Brick wall buttresses rise at the building's southeast and southwest corners and are also present at various locations along the northeast, southeast and southwest elevations. Those along the walls terminate at the third floor level and are broken visually along their vertical length by concrete canted molding placed at the points where they are even with the tops of the adjacent second and third floor windows. The corner buttresses rise above the parapet, where they terminate with concrete bands, inset panels, and coping. Additional decorative features on the exterior walls include brick diamonds, vertical bands, continuous lintel courses, brick label molds, and basket weave patterns. The lower continuous lintel course runs around the entire building above the first floor windows and is formed of brick soldiers flanked by bands of recessed stretchers. Toward the top of the walls is another continuous lintel course of brick soldiers above the third floor windows. This course is capped by a horizontal band of shaped concrete that runs around the entire perimeter of the building.

A large off-center decorative portion of the façade contains three stories of paired classroom windows flanked by two octagonal brick turrets. Flanking the central set of windows are brick wall buttresses with canted molding. The turrets are ornamented to the second floor level with canted and shaped concrete molding set into the brickwork. They then rise above the roof line, where they are further decorated with horizontal concrete banding, inset square concrete panels, and shaped concrete coping. Connecting the turrets to one another is a tall castellated brick parapet that features a basket weave pattern, vertical banding, and concrete coping. Overall, this segment of the building projects the appearance of an armory.

The slightly off-center projecting main entrance on the northeast, just over one story in height, is constructed of brick that matches the walls of the building. The vestibule is framed by an angled brick segmental Tudor arch composed of bands of several courses of both stretchers and headers. Above the arch is a shaped parapet with concrete coping. Inside the vestibule, flush with the main wall of the building, is the main entrance with its two pair of hollow metal doors with one light in each. Above the doors is the original horizontal band of eight transom lights. The main entrance is located at grade.

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Property HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

Capping the building is a flat roof, bordered by a brick parapet wall. The parapets are castellated around the entire perimeter and capped with shaped concrete coping. One large brick chimney capped with concrete coping extends above the roof toward the rear center of the building. This handles exhaust from the boiler. Also on the roof are nine ventilator chimneys in various locations that were designed to remove stale air from throughout the building. Constructed of brick, they are all capped with flat concrete slabs.

**Northeast (Front) Elevation Details:**

The northeast elevation of the school faces onto the front grounds and Walsen Ave. The façade is dominated by the main entry vestibule, windows, and decorative features described above. Windows on the first floor include seven pair of 3-light windows, a band of three 3-light windows, and one smaller 3-light window. The second floor has five pair of 3-light windows, two bands of three 3-light windows, and a band of five 3-light windows. On the third floor are three pair of 3-light windows, two bands of three 3-light windows, and two bands of five 3-light windows. All of the windows have concrete lug sills and steel and brick lintels. The lintel courses on the first and third floors are continuous, extending around the entire perimeter of the building. On the second floor, the windows all have brick label molds. The original windows on this elevation were 6/6 double hung sashes that were replaced around 1975 with those found there today. The current 3-part windows predominantly include operable lowers with aluminum panels or fixed lights above. Among the bands of three or five windows, the center or alternating spaces are entirely filled with aluminum panels.

**Southeast (Side) Elevation Details:**

The southeast elevation of the school faces onto the adjacent landscaped grounds, the Tioga School building, and W. Spruce St. This elevation is dominated by windows and decorative brickwork, with no entries of any kind. Windows on the first floor include two pair of 3-light windows, one 3-light window, and one bricked in former window space. The second floor has one pair of 3-light windows, two individual 3-light windows, and two single-light windows, one of which is very small. On the third floor are one pair of 3-light windows, one band of three 3-light windows, and one small single-light window. All of the windows have concrete lug sills and steel and brick lintels. The lintel courses on the first and third floors are continuous, extending around the entire perimeter of the building. On the second floor, the windows all have brick label molds and brick lintels and surrounds. The original windows on this elevation were mostly 6/6 double hung sashes that were replaced around 1975 with those found there today. The current 3-part windows predominantly include operable lowers with aluminum panels or fixed lights above. In the third floor band of three windows, the center space is entirely filled with an aluminum panel.

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Property HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

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**Southwest (Rear) Elevation Details:**

The southwest elevation of the school faces onto the adjacent paved schoolyard grounds, beyond which is the football field. Because this is the rear of the building, decorative features on this elevation are minimal. The elevation is dominated by windows and brickwork, along with two entries to the building.

Windows on the first floor include three bands of three 3-light windows, one small glass block window, and three boarded former window spaces. The second floor has three bands of three 3-light windows, three individual 3-light windows, and one band of five 3-light windows. On the third floor are three bands of three 3-light windows, a single 3-light window, and two bands of five 3-light windows. All of the windows have concrete lug sills and steel and/or brick lintels. The lintel courses on the first and third floors are continuous, extending around the entire perimeter of the building. On the second floor, some of the windows have brick label molds. The original windows on this elevation were 6/6 double hung sashes that were replaced around 1975 with those found there today. The current 3-part windows predominantly include operable lowers with aluminum panels or fixed lights above. Among the bands of three and five windows, the center or alternating window spaces are entirely filled with aluminum panels. Also found on this elevation, providing light into the interior stairwells, are four large glass block panels with concrete lug sills and brick lintels.

Both entries to the building, located at the bases of the stairwells, contain a pair of hollow metal doors with single lights. These are set into projecting brick vestibules with shed roofs and short parapet sidewalls with concrete coping.

Also projecting from the building below the first floor windows in the southern half of the building is the large, low, shed-roof, poured concrete underground boiler room for the building. Attached to the main building's rear wall, the boiler room stretches between the two doorways at the stairwells. Its only other defining feature is a louvered vent on the southwest side.

**Northwest (Side) Elevation Details:**

The northwest elevation of the school faces onto the adjacent 1976 gymnasium addition. This elevation contains no windows and little in the way of decorative features as on the other elevations. Entries are centered on the wall, with one on each of the first, second and third floors. The first floor entry is enclosed within a one-story causeway that runs between the 1920 school and the 1976 gymnasium. To the northwest of the causeway, toward the rear of the building, is the one-story locker room addition and to the southeast is an exterior metal stairway to the upper floors and a one-story utility entrance constructed of concrete blocks.

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HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

From Walsen Ave., the stairway and utility entrance are all that can be seen to connect the school to the gymnasium. On the second and third floors the exterior stairs rise to landings, at which are hollow metal doors that provide emergency egress from the school building.

The lower northwest corner of the building is partially obscured by the one-story locker room/weight room addition that wraps around the back of the school and gymnasium. Because of the minimal connection at this location, the addition's presence has resulted in minimal impact to the original 1920 school building.

**Interior Features:**

The interior of the school building retains its original layout of double-loaded hallways and rooms, along with a small degree of its original finishes. The partial basement, found under the southwest area of the building and accessed at the base of the south stairwell, contains a large maintenance shop and the boiler room. On the first floor is the main entry foyer, which bisects the central northwest-southeast hallway. This hallway is lined by the lunchroom, kitchen, offices, stairways, and classrooms. The second and third floors are virtually identical, consisting of a main hallway flanked by classrooms. The library is located at the south end of the building. Other than the surviving general layout, historic features that remain inside the building are limited to some exposed wood floors, wood panel doors, old lockers, wood trim and window frames, and wooden chalk rails. Much of the interior has been remodeled several times over previous decades.

**Description of the Gymnasium Addition:**

The 1976 gymnasium and locker room/weight room additions are located to the northwest of the original school building. These are minimally attached to the historic building by the enclosed one-story causeway along the north-central wall of the school and by the one-story locker room/weight room addition that wraps a short distance around the northwest corner of the 1920 building. From Walsen Ave., the 1920 school and 1976 additions appear to be very minimally attached and are in fact two distinct buildings. The rectangular gymnasium, constructed of concrete block lower walls with ribbed sheet metal walls above, and the concrete block locker room/weight room addition, are featureless, utilitarian, block-like buildings with no distinguishing architectural characteristics of note.

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HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

**Grounds Around the School:**

**Northeast:** To the northeast of the school is a large grassed area that contains a number of mature trees, with a line of these stretching along the northeast boundary of the property along Walsen Ave. between the curb and sidewalk. The grounds are bisected by a main entry sidewalk that runs from the building's front entry toward the northeast, where it meets the sidewalk that runs along the southwest side of Walsen Ave. Two flagpoles are present in front of the building. A very old, tall pole is located near the curb of Walsen Ave. in front of the main entrance. A second shorter flagpole, dating from 1974, is found near the entrance to the building along with a plaque stating that it was donated by the Walsenburg Rotary Club.

**Southeast:** To the southeast of the building is a grassed area that contains several mature trees. Beyond the landscaping, along W. Spruce St., is a narrow on-site paved parking lot capable of holding a small number of cars.

**Southwest:** To the southwest of the school is the paved playground, which is partly occupied by the boiler room roof that projects from the building. This area of the property is mostly occupied by a series of small basketball courts.

**Northwest:** To the northwest of the building are the 1976 gymnasium and weight room/locker room additions, which occupy almost the entire area of the property in this direction. The only remaining open space to the northwest is a narrow on-site parking area along W. Elm St. that holds a small number of cars.

**Alterations to the Building and Grounds:**

The 1920 Huerfano County High School has undergone some alteration over the years since it was constructed, with much of the change taking place inside the building. The interior has undergone at least a few periods of remodeling, leaving its original layout largely intact but removing or obscuring many of its original features. While some of these items remain visible in various locations, such as the double-loaded hallways, panel doors, wood flooring, and chalk rails, the interior has predominantly not retained a high degree of historic integrity.

On the exterior, the primary alteration was the circa 1975 replacement of the original wood-frame 6/6 double hung sash windows and multi-light wood doors with those found on the building today. Although this has certainly changed the school's appearance somewhat, it has retained the locations of its windows and doors together with the extensive decorative masonry that defines the building in terms of its Collegiate Gothic style.

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Property HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

Surrounding the school, the primary changes that have taken place have been the placement of the Tioga School in the southwest corner of the property in 1955 and construction of the current gymnasium and locker room/weight room additions in 1976 after the earlier gymnasium addition burned down. These changes have not significantly altered the historic appearance of the 1920 school, which in general exhibits a good degree of historic integrity. From Walsen Ave., the property in general offers passers-by of today with a good view of the Huerfano County High School as it appeared during the earlier and middle decades of the 20th century.

**Description of the Non-Contributing Tioga School**

The 1920 Tioga School, located a short distance south of the Huerfano County High School in the southwest corner of the property, is an L-shaped, one-story, wood-frame building. This building originally served as the schoolhouse at the Tioga coal mine located about 20 miles northwest of Walsenburg along Highway 69. It was moved to its current location in 1955 to serve as a venue for music classes. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation, has wood-paneled exterior walls punctuated by a number of 1/1 double hung sash windows, and is capped by intersecting clipped gable roofs with exposed rafter ends. Although the building is old enough to qualify as historically eligible for designation, it was removed from its original location and the exterior refinished with modern wood paneling that significantly altered its historic appearance.

HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Name of Property

HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more locations for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

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

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all locations that apply.)

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

**Period of Significance**

1920-1955

**Significant Dates**

1920

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

RAPP, ISAAC HAMILTON

RAPP, WILLIAM M.

GHIONE, EMILIO

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

WALSENBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

**Statement of Significance**

The Huerfano County High School is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development in Colorado of modern infrastructure for public high school education during the period following World War I. Erected in 1920, the building offered ample space for teenagers from throughout the county to attend school together in a facility that offered attractive exterior design along with modern interior finishes and technology. Although the idea of constructing a new school was at first controversial, progressive citizens convinced a majority of their neighbors to support the project. The county ended up with a modern high school that, through its size and style, underscored the citizenry's faith in the future. Typical of small towns throughout Colorado, the Collegiate Gothic building became the pride of the community and the venue for not only educational instruction but also athletic competitions and special events such as theatrical performances and dances.

The building is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of the design work of noted Colorado architect Isaac Rapp and his firm of Rapp & Rapp. Although Rapp gained fame with his pioneering work on the Pueblo Revival style, his successful career from 1885 to 1930 revolved primarily around designing a variety of buildings, many of which remain standing today throughout southern Colorado, New Mexico and the Texas panhandle. Based in Trinidad, Colorado not far from Walsenburg, Rapp received commissions for numerous houses, commercial buildings, public buildings, hotels, schools, churches, fraternal lodges, and a variety of other notable buildings. Many of these remain in use today and a number have already been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. At the same time, few of the public schools designed by Isaac Rapp remain standing today, many of them demolished in recent decades. The Huerfano County High School is therefore a rare surviving landmark example of his use of the Gothic Revival style applied to a school that provided modern amenities and ample space for the community's needs for years to come.

Although the windows and entry doors on the building were replaced around 1975, these changes were completed without altering any other elements of the building's elevations. Consequently, the Huerfano County High School retains the majority of its original design and clearly exhibits the Collegiate Gothic style as interpreted by its prominent architect. The interior has been remodeled several times; however it retains its double loaded hallways and other elements of the original finishes. The gymnasium and locker room/weight room were added to the site in 1976 with no effort made to respect the design of the original building. However these are minimally connected to the 1920 building and do not detract from its integrity.

Exhibiting a good degree of historic integrity, the Huerfano County High School still conveys its original location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Today the building evokes the growth and success of Walsenburg and Huerfano County during the coal mining boom of the early 1900s, along with the Collegiate Gothic form of architecture that lent itself well to educational buildings of the period.

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Property HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

## **Historical Background**

Walsenburg and Huerfano County are located in southern Colorado along the margin of the mountains and plains, where the open ranch country to the east meets the towering beauty of Spanish Peaks, which loom above the surrounding countryside. Here the ground holds wealth in the form of great seams of bituminous coal, with the primary underground concentration of black gold running from northwest to southeast around and underneath the town of Walsenburg. The railroad arrived in the area in 1876 and mining camps soon emerged, employing thousands of men. After 1890, many of them arrived from southern and eastern Europe, bringing with them their wives and children. Toiling underground in dangerous working conditions, the miners extracted the fuel needed to operate blast furnaces in steel mills such as the Colorado Coal and Iron plant in nearby Pueblo (later renamed Colorado Fuel & Iron, or CF&I), which opened in 1879 under the ownership of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. Although the western steel industry and coal mining in Huerfano County grew moderately through the 1880s, the mining camps saw an intensification of activity beginning in 1890 when steel production increased, resulting in greater demand for coal.

Over the following thirty years, the coal mines and all of Huerfano County experienced a boom period that resulted in population growth and the development of new buildings to meet the needs of a growing community. Payrolls from the mining camps reached hundreds of thousands of dollars each month, money that went into area businesses and tax coffers, boosting the local economy and resulting in the growth of Walsenburg, which served as the county seat and market center. The increase in numbers of residents between 1890 and 1920 in Walsenburg, the nearby town of La Veta, and the area's many coal camps was accompanied by growing educational enrollment. Elementary-age children residing in the coal camps typically attended camp schools, which were more often than not established and controlled by the mining companies. Those who lived in the towns of Walsenburg and La Veta, as well as the children from mining camps close to town, were more likely to attend the public schools in those communities.

By the 1910s, many schools built during the pioneer era of the 1800s had aged and were no longer capable of handling the numbers of students attending them. They were also sorely lacking in modern technological improvements such as centralized systems of heating, ventilation, plumbing and electricity. Although economic conditions differed from one locale to another in Colorado, many school districts in growing areas of the state experienced the same general concerns and challenges during the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Through public debate and the allocation of funding, progressive supporters of modern education (who often also opposed child labor) led their communities toward the goals of constructing new schools, consolidating small districts into larger ones, and establishing public high schools to encourage families to seek a higher level of education for their children.

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Property HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

The first high school in Huerfano County was established in Walsenburg in 1892, with one teacher instructing eleven children attending grades seven through twelve. Graduation exercises were first held in 1897. Four years later the number of graduating students had risen to twenty-one and in 1901 the district inaugurated its first four-year course of high school instruction. These early classes were held in the Odd Fellows Hall in Walsenburg. In 1906 the school became known as Huerfano County High School even though it had no building of its own. Ten years later, classes were held in the Armory Building, which burned the following year. The high school then moved into the old Hill School and Chapman Hall, with classes meeting six days each week during World War I. In 1916 the combined population of both Walsenburg and La Veta High Schools was approximately 140 students.

During the 1910s, Walsenburg boasted three brick public school buildings, in which a total of twenty-five teachers were employed at an average salary of \$98 per month. By 1919 the county school system was made up of forty-one districts with 110 teachers working at sixty-two buildings scattered throughout the countryside, a number of them at area coal camps. The county system in 1916 was educating a total of just over 3,500 students. These rural teachers made an average of \$80 per month. All of the town and country schools handled primary grades one through eight, with some children from the two dozen coal mines immediately surrounding Walsenburg attending school in town. Walsenburg High School operated under the guidance of Principal Charles Albert Johnson, who remained in this position from 1917 through 1927 and was the new Huerfano County High School's first principal after 1920. Walsenburg had over 1,700 children enrolled in its primary and high schools in 1919, approximately 140 of them in the upper grades. In addition to the public schools, Walsenburg maintained a Catholic school with a total enrollment of 500-600 children.

The small percentage of older children able to continue their education attended either Union High School in La Veta or Walsenburg High School. Most of the children from the coal camps did not attend high school at all, partly due to their restrictive distance from the schools at a time when traveling even five miles each way presented a major challenge for students with no access to transportation. Others did not attend because the mining camp mentality stressed practical learning, viewing higher education as an unnecessary luxury for children destined to become miners and miners' wives. In addition, each family sending a child to high school was required to pay one dollar per month in tuition, a sum that struggling miners could not afford. Teenage boys typically ended up working in the mines, while the girls became wives and started having children themselves. The end result of this combination of discouraging factors was that few children from the coal mines attended school beyond the eighth grade.

Among the several thousand students receiving public school education in Huerfano County were hundreds from coal mining families, many of them with immigrant parents who were not only illiterate but spoke little English. In 1920, thirty percent of the students were classified by a recent census as of "Spanish" background, thirty percent of other undefined races (probably what would be classified as "nationalities" rather than "races" today), and the remainder of English, Scottish and Irish origin.

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Property HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

Attendance at school, for as many years as possible, was seen by civic leaders and reformers as the key to helping these children from working-class, immigrant households become Americanized, providing them with the tools they would need to succeed in life. The schools in Huerfano County acted as melting pots that brought children of many different nationalities together to forge a common bond as Americans. Even with this laudable goal, however, they often found the school environment filled with tension between different ethnic groups and between town-dwellers and coal mining families. Progressive reformers persisted though with their belief that education would eventually conquer these divisions. Together with securing adequate funding and hiring dedicated administrators and teachers, the most important factor in delivering on the promise of education was having modern school buildings in which teaching and learning could effectively take place.

By 1917 the building used by the high school in Walsenburg had aged and reached its limits to accommodate students. On November 1, the interior suffered fire damage and had to be rebuilt. Although this was accomplished within a few months, some of the families and civic leaders of Huerfano County began to press for the construction of a modern high school building for their children. However before the majority of citizens would approve the funding for a new school, the public had to be convinced that such a large expenditure was really necessary.

On 10 April 1919, the *Walsenburg World* published a front-page article about Colorado's high standards for its schools. Praising the dedicated citizens of the Centennial State, the paper congratulated them for their forward-thinking support of children through the construction of modern educational buildings that served as settings for implementation of the latest in educational philosophy and practice. Throughout the state a number of elementary, junior high, and high schools were constructed during the World War I era in rural towns such as Sterling, Fort Morgan, Rocky Ford, Greeley, Durango and Alamosa. Urban communities made great strides in replacing aging buildings with new ones. In the rural areas, efforts were made to consolidate one-room country schoolhouses into larger facilities and separate students by age and grade. The construction of centralized modern schools changed the face of education in Colorado for decades to come. Many of the new high schools were also designed to serve as community centers, where not only classes took place but where the citizenry could gather for athletic competitions, celebrations, and cultural events.

Some citizens of Huerfano County rejected the notion that a new high school was necessary at any cost. Others, such as local businessman Louis B. Sporleder, supported the construction of a school but did not agree with the purchase of land. His argument was that one of the community's wealthy landholders should donate ground for this purpose, asking them "to make a financial sacrifice for the good of the whole county." (*Walsenburg World*, 24 April 1919, p. 1) Sporleder believed that this would eliminate competition among speculators who were asking the school board to pay exorbitant prices for their properties. The final group of citizens believed that a new school was necessary at any cost, including that of the land. The argument over whether to construct a new high school for Huerfano County, and how it would be paid for, played itself out through articles and editorials published in Walsenburg's two competing newspapers.

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While supporting construction of the new high school, the editor of *The Walsenburg World* expressed his opinion that the school board should purchase the land rather than seeking a donation. His reasoning was that the construction of a school should not be approached as a charitable endeavor, but one in which the taxpayers should expect to contribute fully just as they would with a courthouse, town hall or jail. The donation of a piece of land would, the editor believed, circumvent this public duty and limit the school board to working with the conditions, or even limitations, of that single donated property rather than seeking the location that would best suit the needs of the children for the foreseeable future. (17 July 1919, p. 1)

*The Independent*, also published in Walsenburg, came out strongly in support of the effort and published frequent articles and editorials on its behalf. Calling for a modern, well-designed building of quality construction, the newspaper stressed that it should include good lighting and the latest in heating and ventilation systems. In June 1919 the editor wrote that "It was a shame that the class which graduated this month was compelled to be cooped up in such a place during their term. It is nothing less than a crime to force young people who are striving to secure an education by which to combat the problems of life to undergo what our high school students have endured. Every up-to-date community recognizes that its right to recognition by the world at large is measured by its pride in good schools..." (20 June 1919, p. 4) The paper called for the citizenry to support the project, while at the same time encouraging local property owners to consider donating land for this purpose.

Calling upon the memory of the pioneers in support of the school project, the *Walsenburg World* wrote that "The sturdy men of former days spent their time, their money and their lives in building up free institutions on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains, and the pioneers of Huerfano County had their share in this great work. We must not let the work they accomplished go for naught. The only way to carry on the work they so nobly began is to foster and build up the educational advantages which they have bequeathed to us for our children." (26 June 1919, p. 1) Writing in *The Independent* in favor of the project, Addie Viola Hudson, wife of a local rancher, businessman and future state senator, echoed this sentiment. She also focused upon the problems of illiteracy and child labor, both in Colorado and throughout the nation. To those who argued that the cost of a new school was excessive and unnecessary, Hudson replied that each taxpayer's share would be minimal: "It is a small sum to keep in your pocket and let the child pay – pay in lack of development, pay in lack of opportunity, pay in the priceless coin of a shining mentality, and it is the poor child that will pay the biggest price, for the man who can afford it may send his child away but on the ripening autumn day, when that one child leaves for a broader educational field, there will remain at home some lonely little hearts beating a farewell to many, many things." (4 July 1919, p. 1)

On 7 July 1919, a light turnout of voters went to the polls and approved the bond issue for the school by a majority vote of 65 in favor, allocating \$5,000 for the purchase of property and another \$85,000 for construction costs. *The Independent* editorialized a few days later that "the enterprising citizens of the county are tired of having their boys and girls herded in the old building used for the past few years and voted in favor of the bonds." (11 July 1919, p. 1)

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In the wake of the contentious situation surrounding the question of building a new high school, and even though the bond issue was approved, the editor of *The Independent* lashed out as he was no longer able to restrain himself:

We have it on good authority that certain members of the old gang who have ridden the necks of the people of this county and city for years thought this a good opportunity to wreak revenge. It is alleged that a man who holds an office under the present city administration, but whose taxes would not amount to over 40 cents, used his car and devoted the day against the bond issue. Now, this fellow has drawn a salary for years in a position about which he knows no more than an infant. Just why he should make a fool of himself in this matter, after wasting the peoples' money without compunction is a puzzle.

Other men, from whom one would expect some intelligence and loyalty devoted their time and effort to defeat the bonds. Some of them even spent last Sunday in the country working against the bonds.

There can be only two or three reasons (not reasons, but excuses) for such back-woods conduct. One excuse might be that the republican bosses failing to control the high school board at the recent election, decided to resort to their old methods of rule or ruin. Another excuse the destructionists might possibly give is the fact that in preparing for the bond issue the high school board appropriated only \$5,000 for the purchase of a site. Some of these members of the old-time clique are said to own land which they feverishly desired to sell as a site, but they also expected to shove their hands away down into the money drawer and graft two or three times the value of this land.

The battle has been fought and won. This county will have a new high school building. It will be built by honest people. There will be no graft. The filchers who oppose everything out of which they can not possibly get a rake-off will get the advantages of the improvement, but they will not get their dirty hands on the money to be spent.

THE KICKERS, MUDSLINGERS AND OBSTRUCTIONISTS HAD JUST AS WELL LIE DOWN AND BE GOOD, FOR THEY HAVE SEEN THEIR DAY. THEY HAVE LOST THEIR GRIP AND HUERFANO COUNTY WILL CONTINUE TO PROSPER AND IMPROVE AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN DECENTLY BURIED. (11 July 1919, p.1)

The newspaper hailed the work of the Walsenburg Commercial Club and County Superintendent of Public Schools Martha Thorne for their support of the bond issue and effort to construct the new school.

Responding to *The Independent's* "tirade" of the previous week, the editor of the *Walsenburg World* responded that rather than entrenched "republican bosses" seeking to defeat the project, the school question had previously been voted down by the citizenry of the county. His view of the situation was that those persons who had formerly rejected the notion of a new school, leading to the issue's defeat in prior voting, were now the ones in support of the project. The editor of the *Walsenburg World* felt that politics and personal grievances were stirring up animosities over the school issue and that it was

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high time to set these aside in light of the recent vote in favor of the bond issue. Seeking to bring the community together over the project, the paper encouraged its readers to move forward and focus instead upon the task of building a modern facility for the children. (17 July 1919, p.1)

On the last day of July 1919, the Superintendent of Schools published a notice that the High School Committee would receive bids for the bonds to finance the new building at any time prior to 1:00 pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August. These would consist of eighty bonds, each with a value of \$1,000, together with another twenty bonds valued at \$500 each. All would bear an interest rate of 5% per annum, maturing thirty years from the date of issue, and would be sold to the highest qualified bidder. Eight investors submitted bids to purchase the bonds, together with earnest money in the form of certified checks for \$1,000. The entire issue of \$90,000 was sold to the Denver brokerage firm of E. H. Rollins & Sons.

While the bond sale was being arranged, the school district advertised for architectural plans. On July 11, *The Independent* printed an architectural rendering of the new school on its front page, showing a handsome two-story Classical Revival building that looked nothing like the building found there today. This plan was clearly not used, and the reason for the change was not recorded. What is known is that the school district ultimately approved plans submitted by the firm of Rapp & Rapp, based in nearby Trinidad. **Isaac Rapp** was noted by that time for his numerous buildings of a variety of types and styles throughout southern Colorado, New Mexico, and the Texas panhandle, many of them prominent public and commercial buildings. A number of these remain standing today, some of them listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Although hailed in later years for his pioneering work in the Pueblo Revival or "Santa Fe" style of architecture, when it came to the Huerfano County High School project Isaac Rapp employed the Collegiate Gothic design the firm had utilized earlier for buildings at the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell (especially the Hagerman Barracks), Marian Hall in Santa Fe, and the 1918 Raton (New Mexico) High School gymnasium and remodel.

Isaac Rapp's career traversed the years from 1885 until 1930, a period during which he designed numerous buildings utilizing a variety of styles and became known as a gifted architect. Not only did he pioneer what became known as the Santa Fe style in New Mexico during this period, but he also prepared plans for many other properties throughout the region that in recent years have become recognized as architectural masterpieces. Born in New York City in 1854 and raised in Carbondale, Illinois, Isaac Rapp grew up in a family of nine children that was to produce five architects, all sired by a father who himself was a successful architect and building contractor. The two youngest sons eventually formed the famed Chicago architecture firm of Rapp and Rapp, known for their masterful theater designs. Isaac, however, moved initially to Anthony, Kansas in 1885, where he became partners there with architect Charles W. Bulger. The two designed a number of buildings in that community but after a few years were ready to move their practice farther west.

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In April 1888 they arrived in Trinidad, Colorado and decided to establish an architecture firm there that specialized in public and commercial buildings, although the partners also took on residential commissions. Despite the fact that they began to receive contracts for work, the partnership dissolved in 1891 when Bulger abandoned Colorado for Texas to relieve an ongoing struggle with what appears to have been altitude sickness. Isaac was then joined in the firm by his brother, William Morris Rapp, who had been working as a draftsman with an architectural firm in Wichita, Kansas. With William's arrival the same year Bulger left, the practice was renamed I. H. and W. M. Rapp, also known as Rapp & Rapp. William remained actively involved in the business until his unexpected death in 1920. The Rapp brothers were also joined by Arthur C. Hendrickson in 1904, who started as a draftsman, became a full partner in 1909, and stayed with the firm until he also died in 1921.

Throughout their years together, the three partners played distinct roles in the firm's operation and success. William Rapp primarily oversaw the firm's administration and Arthur Hendrickson handled construction oversight. Isaac Rapp was in charge of the firm, the one most intimately involved in creative design work on all of its commissions and who is rightfully credited with its architectural products. Rapp, Rapp and Hendrickson spent the better part of two to three decades creating an array of architectural masterpieces that changed the face of growing western communities such as Trinidad and Walsenburg in Colorado and Las Vegas, Raton and Santa Fe in New Mexico.

Following the deaths of his two partners within a short time span, Isaac Rapp withdrew somewhat from active practice and accepted a much smaller number of commissions throughout the 1920s. Surrounded by family, friends and many of the buildings he designed in the city of Trinidad, he enjoyed a quieter lifestyle before closing the firm around 1930, followed by his death in 1933. In light of the history and achievements of the Trinidad-based architectural firm of Rapp & Rapp, the 1920 Huerfano County High School was one of the last commissions completed by the intact partnership of Isaac Rapp, William Rapp, and Arthur Hendrickson before the firm was changed forever by the demise of two of the three partners over the following year.

With the plans prepared by the Rapp firm over the summer of 1919, the school district advertised in early September 1919 that it was ready to accept construction bids for the new high school. The contract was awarded to Emilio Ghione, a local builder and general contractor. Born in Italy in 1883, Ghione immigrated to the United States as a young man and settled in Trinidad, Colorado. Over the following decades he worked as a builder in southern Colorado, northern New Mexico and Utah. In 1909 he resettled in Walsenburg, where he spent the remainder of his life. From that year until the late 1940s, Ghione constructed many of the new buildings in the town. Among the first of these was the St. Charles Hotel. In addition to the Huerfano County High School in 1920, he constructed the St. Mary Rectory, Lamme Hospital, the Joseph Building, and the home of Dr. James Lamme Jr. Emilio Ghione was also responsible for the construction of many of the mining camp buildings in the Walsenburg area. He died in 1957 and was buried in Walsenburg at St. Mary Cemetery.

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A sizable block of land located north of downtown along Walsen Ave. was secured for the school and construction commenced. In November another controversy erupted over the handling of how the school site was chosen, combined with the noticed lack of a substantial basement for the building. These concerns led to public criticism of the school board's insular decision-making process and lack of willingness to consult with interested parties in the community during the planning stage. The board was roundly criticized by the editor of the *Walsenburg World*, who wrote that "It is hoped that the high school board will correct this error in judgment before it is too late. We have little hope that the board will do anything of the kind. The history of the board shows that it is too self confident. The only co-operation that it desires is the cooperation of 'us members of the board' and no more." (20 November 1919, p. 1) The criticism apparently was ignored and construction continued as planned.

As construction continued through the winter and into the spring of 1920, the real estate community in Walsenburg began to promote residential building lots on the blocks surrounding the school site. Neelley & Co. Real Estate, hoping to cash in on the nearby public construction project, announced a thirty-day sale of choice residential lots beginning 1 March 1920. In a large advertisement published in the *Walsenburg World* on February 19, the firm encouraged readers to build a new home on several blocks across Spruce St. to the south and southwest of the school site in the Capitol Hill Addition.

By December 1920 the construction neared completion and a grand opening was planned for that month. However the public reception scheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup> had to be postponed until after New Year's as light fixtures had not yet been installed in part of the building. Classes commenced following the winter holidays although work continued over the following months stocking the building with necessary equipment and school supplies. The domestic science class opened the cafeteria in the new building, where nutritious meals were efficiently offered to the students. These classes prepared and served the food, which was made available to the students at noontime. This allowed the school to shorten the noon recess by fifteen minutes as more students could eat there rather than travel to home and back for lunch. A blackboard presented the modest prices of food items available for the day and attendants loaded trays with each student's selections. Other posted signs directed students where to return their trays and dirty dishes when finished. The concept of an on-site school cafeteria was something novel at the time in small-town communities, and it was received with a positive response from students, faculty and staff.

After much work and anticipation the new Huerfano County High School was completed and a public opening scheduled for 18 February 1921. At the grand opening, faculty members and administrators held an open house so the citizens of the county could tour their new building and enjoy refreshments. A few months later, at the end of the school year, the first class of students to use the new high school held their graduation exercises at the Star Theater. With a total of eighteen students, this was the largest graduating class in the history of the high school. After the ceremony, the students and guests returned to the school for an open house with refreshments and dancing.

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In 1925, Isaac Rapp was approached again by the school district with a request to design a gymnasium-auditorium addition that would be attached to the northwest end of the original building. This \$50,000 addition, matching the Collegiate Gothic style of the 1920 building, was completed during the spring and summer of 1926. The students celebrated the construction of the gymnasium, prior to which basketball games were held in the town's cramped Armory. Together with providing ample room for sporting events, the addition held a performance stage in its southwest end, complete with theatrical lighting, a fly loft, and a baby grand piano. The hybrid gym and auditorium was also equipped with a projector and screen for the display of motion pictures. By 1928, the Huerfano County High School building was hosting not only upper-level high school students, but was also serving as the area's junior high as well. With its ample space, the building was capable of taking in the additional students attending middle grades and continued to do so for decades. In 1930-31, the open ground west of the school was donated to the district by the town's namesake, Fred Walsen, and developed into an athletic field to be used for football, baseball and track events.

Between 1940 and 1957, a variety of improvements were made to the Huerfano County High School. Trees were planted around the building, many of which remain on the site today. The year 1945 saw the installation of a new heating plant and colored linoleum floor tiles were placed in the halls and stairways. In 1947, the janitor's apartment was converted into a dedicated cafeteria for school lunches. The Tioga School was moved into the southwest corner of the site in 1955 from the coal mining camp of Tioga, about twenty miles to the northwest of Walsenburg, to provide space for band classes. Known for years as the Band Cottage, it remains in use today for offices. The 1926 gymnasium-auditorium building was heavily damaged by fire in 1974. Rather than restoring the building, it was torn down at that time and two years later replaced by the block-shaped gymnasium that remains there today. In 1975, the high school students were moved to a new building in town and the 1920 Huerfano County High School entered a new phase of its history as the Walsenburg Middle School until it was vacated in 2004.

Completed in 1920, the Huerfano County High School served for over eighty years as the center of middle- and upper-level public school education in this southern Colorado community, whose economy during the early 20th century revolved primarily around coal mining. The building's origins reflect the evolution of Walsenburg from a small pioneer late-1800s market center for the surrounding ranching and mining district to a growing early 20th-century town that served as the commercial, governmental, and educational center for the surrounding region. With a history that alone testifies to its integral place in the community, the building served the public well and is representative of the development and evolution of infrastructure designed for educational purposes.

This prominent, decorative building, and the activities that it contained over the decades, contributed significantly to the education of thousands of students, fulfilling the goal of area families to provide their children with upper-level educational opportunities that would help them succeed in life. This goal was of particular importance for families who saw education as the key to success in America.

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The building is therefore a notable landmark that attests to the fundamental importance of education in American communities during the early decades of the century. Today the school, referred to by the *Denver Post* in 1952 as a "spacious citadel of learning," stands as a prominent landmark evocative of the community's historic willingness to invest in the education of its youth. (8 May 1952). In addition to its practical function as a place of education, the building served the town of Walsenburg as a source of aesthetic pride and as a place for the community to gather for events over several generations.

The Huerfano County High School also represents the growth of the region and its coal camps during the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, providing a case study in the response of a rural school district to large increases in enrollment. Overcrowded conditions and outdated facilities were viewed as detrimental to the proper education of children, and the district acted to replace the earlier Walsenburg High School with a larger, more versatile building even though it was a controversial undertaking at the time. The new building was designed as massive and horizontally-expansive, offering amenities not found in the old building. These included additional classrooms, ample office space, a large library, and a cafeteria. Modern technology was also incorporated into the building, which was equipped with a boiler system, a ventilation system to enhance airflow, good lighting, and electricity. The only items missing were a gymnasium and auditorium, which were added in 1926.

For the community of Walsenburg, prominent southern Colorado architect Isaac Hamilton Rapp designed a substantial, high-style school building that to this day is viewed as an inspiring early 20th-century educational building. This building is one of just two of his many projects in southern Colorado known to have employed the Collegiate Gothic style (the other being the 1922 Community Hall designed for the Catholic parish of Holy Trinity in Trinidad). Although some of the buildings created by the association of Isaac Rapp, William Rapp and Arthur Hendrickson have been demolished, many others remain standing today and are celebrated by those who recognize quality architecture from the late 1800s and early 1900s. Today at least eighty buildings attributed to Isaac Rapp and his partners can be seen in Trinidad, Colorado together with another nine in Walsenburg. The firm's surviving projects in Walsenburg include three Mission style buildings at St. Mary's school, the Mission style Masonic building in downtown, a single bungalow residence, and the Star Theater, which has been significantly altered. The Huerfano County High School is therefore significant today as an excellent example of the work of the architectural firm of Rapp & Rapp and as the only known example of the Late Gothic Revival, or Collegiate Gothic, style of architecture found in Walsenburg.

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HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  
Name of Property

HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 1.5 ACRES

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	13	518877	4164677	(NAD 27)	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing			Zone	Easting	Northing
2					4			
							see continuation sheet	

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

organization date

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

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

**Additional items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

name HUERFANO SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

street and number 611 W. 7TH ST. telephone 719 / 738-1520

city or town WALSENBURG state CO zip code 81089

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is bounded on the northwest by the south curb line of W. Elm St., on the northeast by the west curb line of Walsen Ave., on the southeast by the north curb line of W. Spruce St, and on the southwest by the fence line that separates the 1920 school from the athletic field to the west.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes, and is limited to, the land and improvements within the boundaries described above, including the 1920 Huerfano County High School along with the surrounding landscaped grounds to the northeast and southeast and the playground to the southwest. Within these boundaries is the non-contributing Tioga School, placed on the site in 1955. The athletic field, while originally part of the school property, has changed over the years to the point that it has lost the more significant elements that previously underpinned its integrity. Specifically, the original stone bleachers, announcer's booth, and scoreboard have been removed and replaced, significantly altering the historic integrity of this feature of the school site. The nominated boundaries were therefore selected due to the fact that they include all of the significant features associated with its original construction in 1920 that are directly associated with the work of architects Rapp & Rapp and contractor Emilio Ghione.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 11 Page 22

Property HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

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**Form Prepared By:**

Ron Sladek, President  
Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc.  
612 S. College Ave., Suite 21  
P.O. Box 1909  
Fort Collins, CO 80522  
970.221.1095

Date Prepared: 27 May 2005

**Form Prepared For:**

Elaine Lenzini, President  
Huerfano County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 977  
LaVeta, CO 81055

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 23Property HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLHUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

## Photograph Log

The following information applies to all photographs submitted with this registration form:

Name of property:	Huerfano County High School
City, county and state:	Walsenburg, Huerfano County, Colorado
Photographer:	Ron Sladek
Date of photograph:	28 January 2005
Location of negative:	Tatanka Historical Associates Inc. 612 S. College Ave., Suite 21 P.O. Box 1909 Fort Collins, CO 80522

- Photograph #1: View of the front of the school from across Walsen Ave. View to the southwest.
- Photograph #2: View of the northeast and southeast elevations from the corner of the site at Walsen Ave. and W. Spruce St. View to the northwest.
- Photograph #3: View of the main entrance to the school.
- Photograph #4: View of the main entrance and octagonal tower above.
- Photograph #5: View of the southern of the two octagonal towers on the façade.
- Photograph #6: View of the ornamental portion of the façade flanked by two octagonal towers.
- Photograph #7: View of the rear, or southwest elevation, of the school. View to the east.
- Photograph #8: View of the northern edge of the site along W. Elm St., with the 1976 gymnasium addition on the left. View to the northwest
- Photograph #9: View of the gymnasium addition from the rear along W. Elm St., with the lower one-story locker room addition below. View to the east.
- Photograph #10: View of the connection between the 1920 school building (on the left) and the 1976 gymnasium addition (on the right). This is the view that can be seen from Walsen Ave.
- Photograph #11: View of the W. Spruce St. elevation of the Tioga School building that was brought onto the site in 1955. View to the northwest.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 24Property HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLHUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

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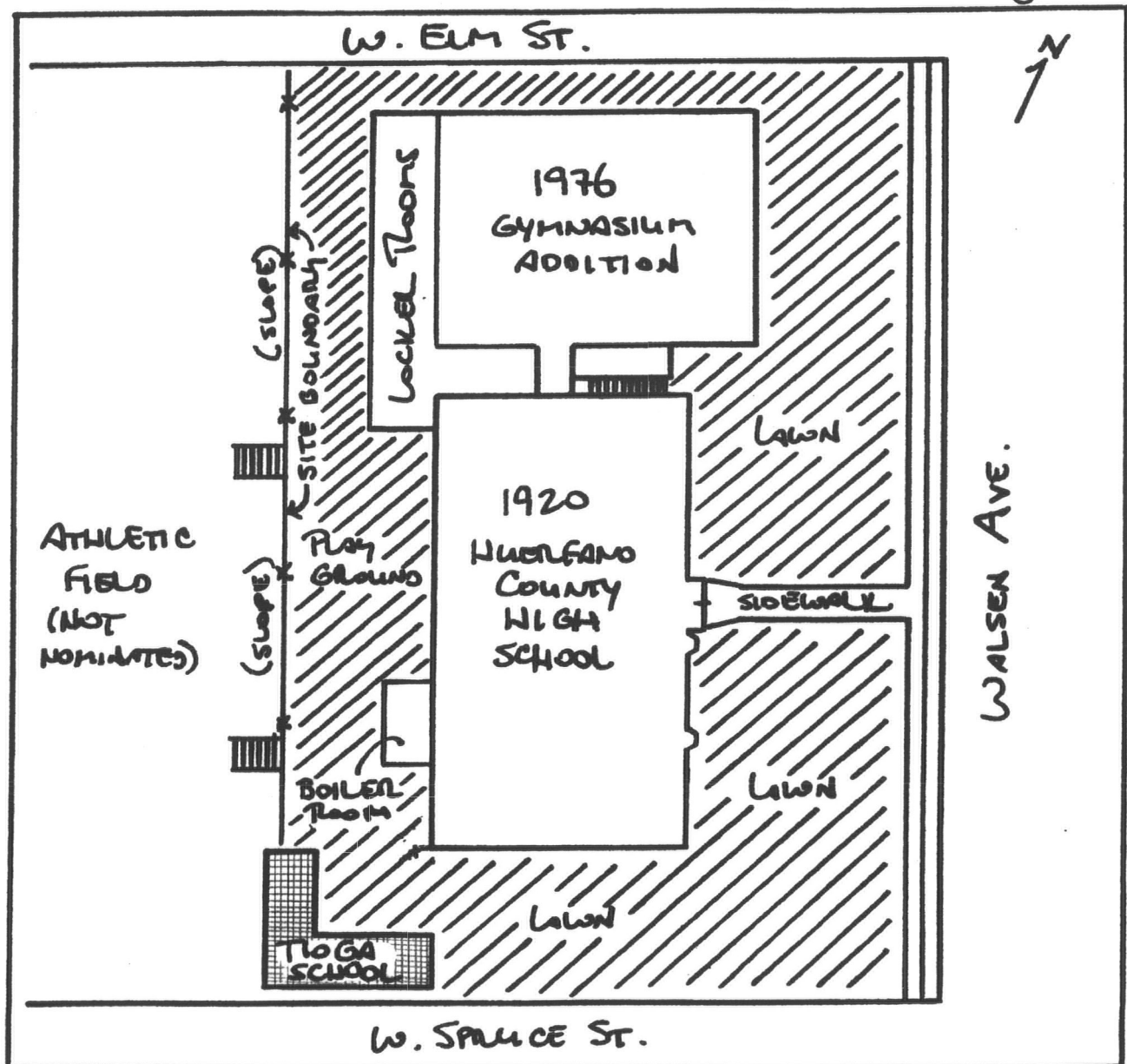
- Photograph #12: View of the southwest elevation of the Tioga School building from the adjacent athletic field. View to the east.
- Photograph #13: View of the interior of the main entrance to the 1920 high school building.
- Photograph #14: View of the interior of the main floor hallway in the building, looking toward the southeast.
- Photograph #15: View of the cafeteria area in the northwest end of the first floor.
- Photograph #16: View of the interior of the main floor hallway in the building, looking toward the northwest.
- Photograph #17: View of the interior of the corridor that connects the 1920 school building to the 1976 gymnasium addition.
- Photograph #18: View of one of the interior stairways in the high school building.
- Photograph #19: View of one of the upper floor main hallways, with its double loaded classrooms.
- Photograph #20: View of one of the wood panel doors in the upper floor classrooms.
- Photograph #21: View of one of the upper floor main hallways, with its double loaded classrooms and older lockers.
- Photograph #22: View of one of the upper floor classrooms, with its wood flooring, original radiator, and wood panel door.
- Photograph #23: View of the library, with one of its original radiators and arched doorway.
- Photograph #24: View of one of the upper floor classrooms, with its original radiators and trimwork.
- Photograph #25: View of an original chalk rail in one of the upper floor classrooms.
- Photograph #26: View of the below-grade boiler room on the southwest side of the building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 25Property HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLHUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

Site Diagram  
(not to scale)

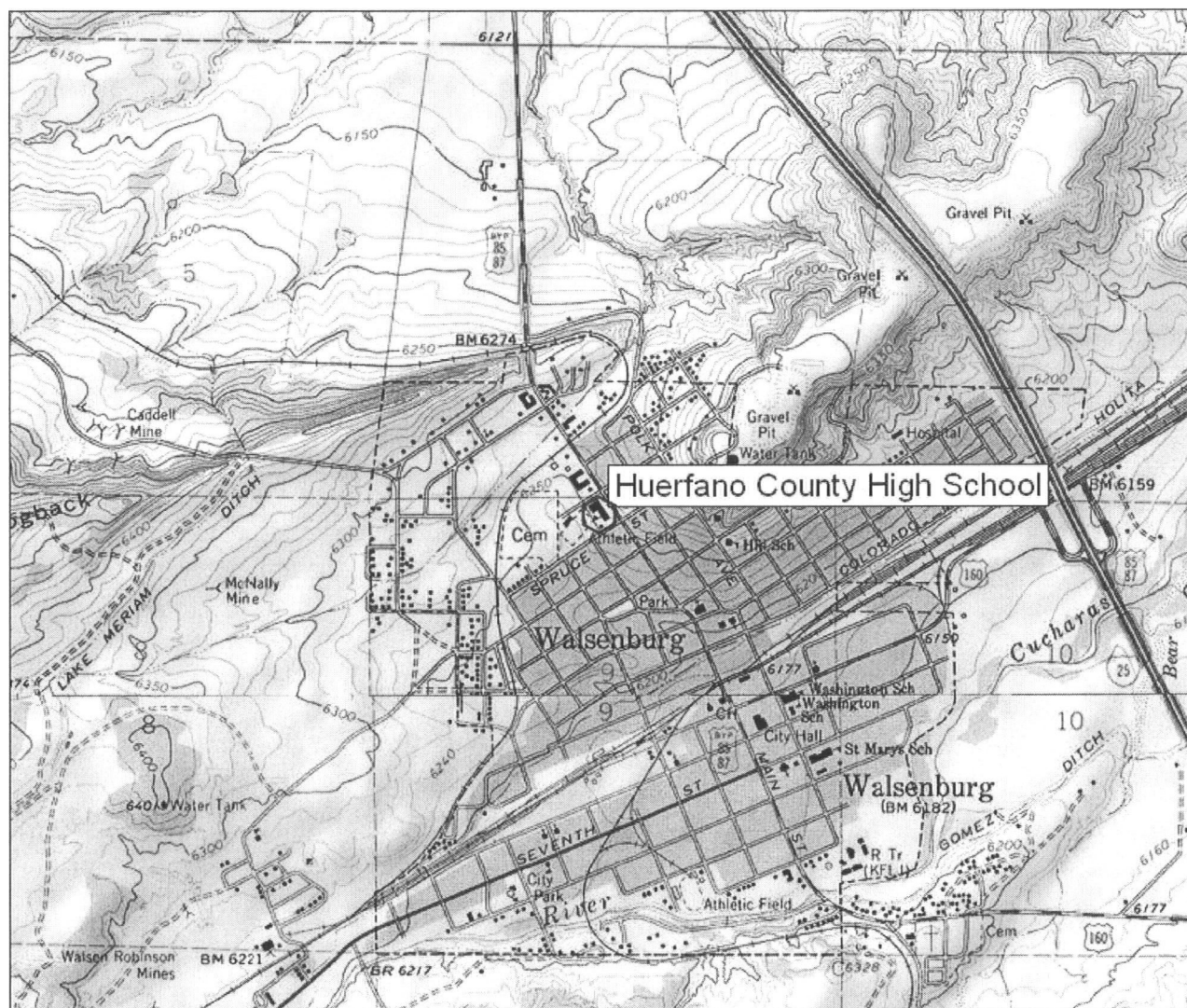
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 26Property HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLHUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

**USGS Topographic Map  
Walsenburg North, Colorado  
7.5' Quadrangle  
1963**



TN MN  
9 1/2°

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

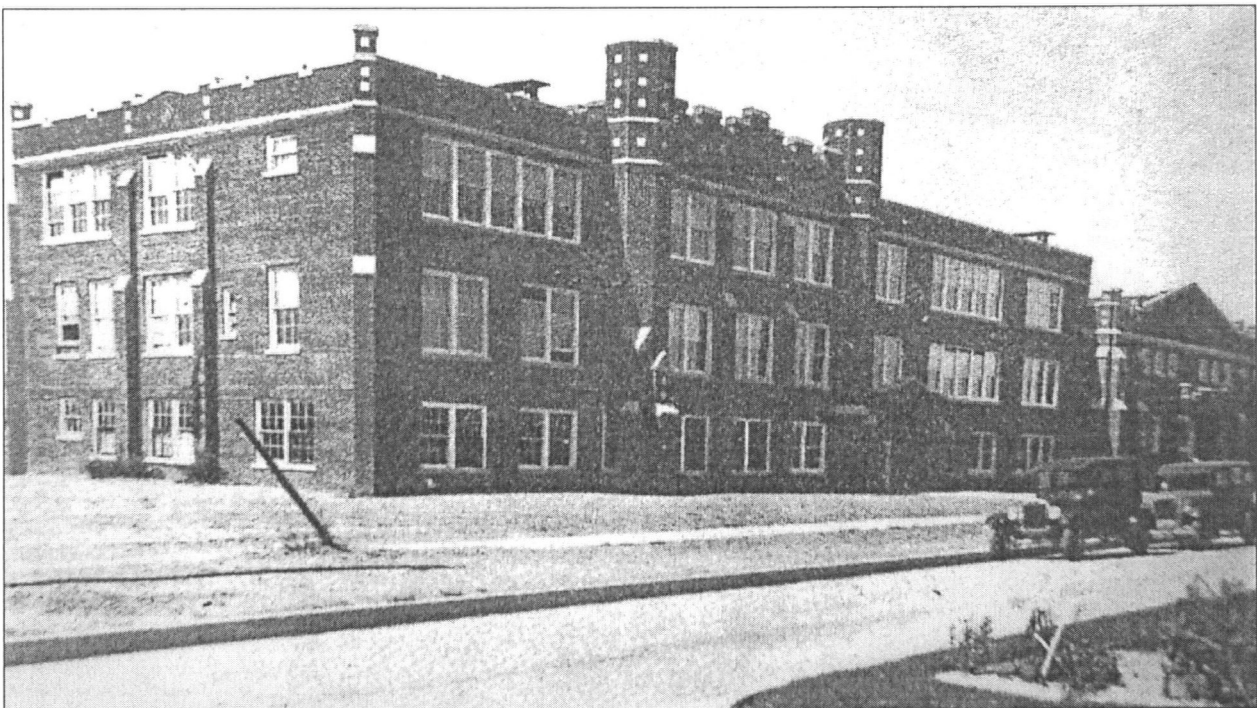
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 27

Property HUERFANO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

**Historic Photograph**

From the 1928 *Huajatolla*, the student annual of Huerfano County High School.



View of the school from across Walsen Ave. to the southeast. View to the northwest.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Huerfano County High School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: COLORADO, Huerfano

DATE RECEIVED: 9/19/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/02/05  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05001200

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11.2.05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#1

004 NNNN 110 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#2

004 NNNN 138 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---

WAL SENBURG  
MIDDLE SCHOOL



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#3

004 NNNN 122 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---



004 Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

# 4

NNNN 125 02.15.05 12305 NEG#-----



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#5

004 1111 129 02.15.05 12905 NEG#-----



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#6

004 NNNN 106 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#7

004 NNNN 033 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#8

004 NNNN 113 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#9

004 NNNN 029 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#10

004 HHHH 117 02.15.05 12305 NEG#-----



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#11

004 NNNN 093 02.15.05 12905 NFA#--



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#12

001 NNNN 065 02.15.05 12905 NFG#--



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#13

008 NNNN 001 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#14

004 NNNN 005 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#15

004 NNNN 013 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---

Parent Center



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#16

004 NNNN 017 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#17

004 NNNN 009 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#18

004  
HHHH 001 02.15.05 12305 MEGH-----



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#19

0000  
HHHH  
029 02.15.05 12305 NEG#-----



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#20

HHHH 033 02.15.05 12905 NEG#-----



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#21

008 NNNN 041 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#22

008 NNNN 013 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#23

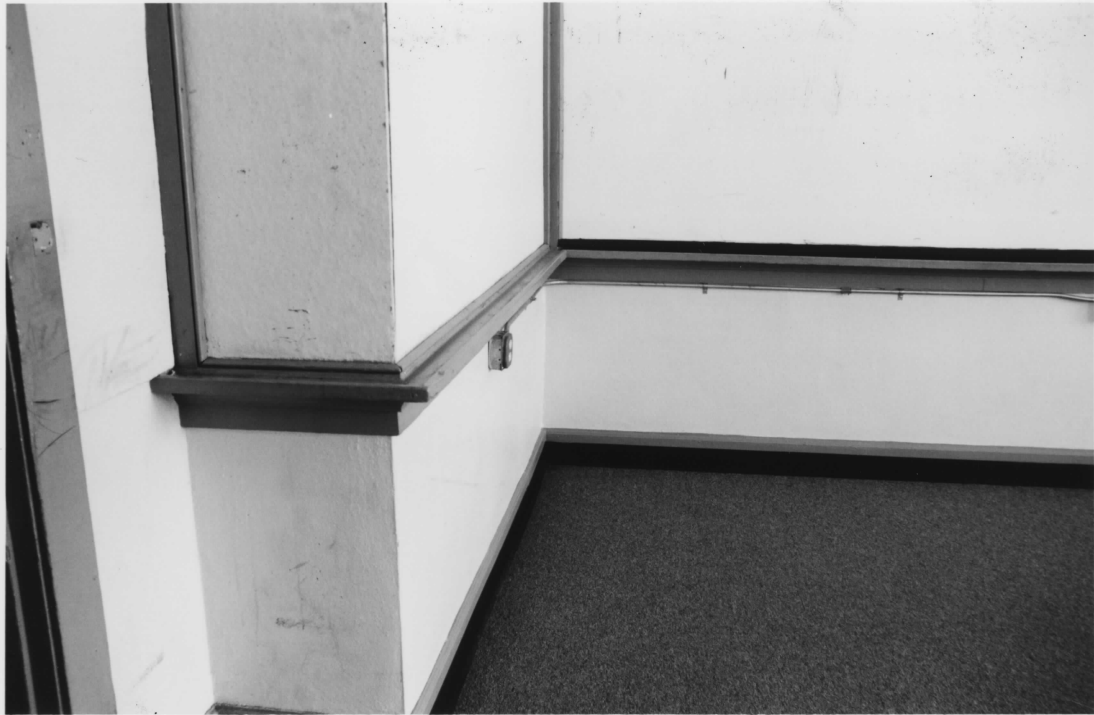
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Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#24

008 NNNN 017 02.15.05 12905 NEG#---



Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#25

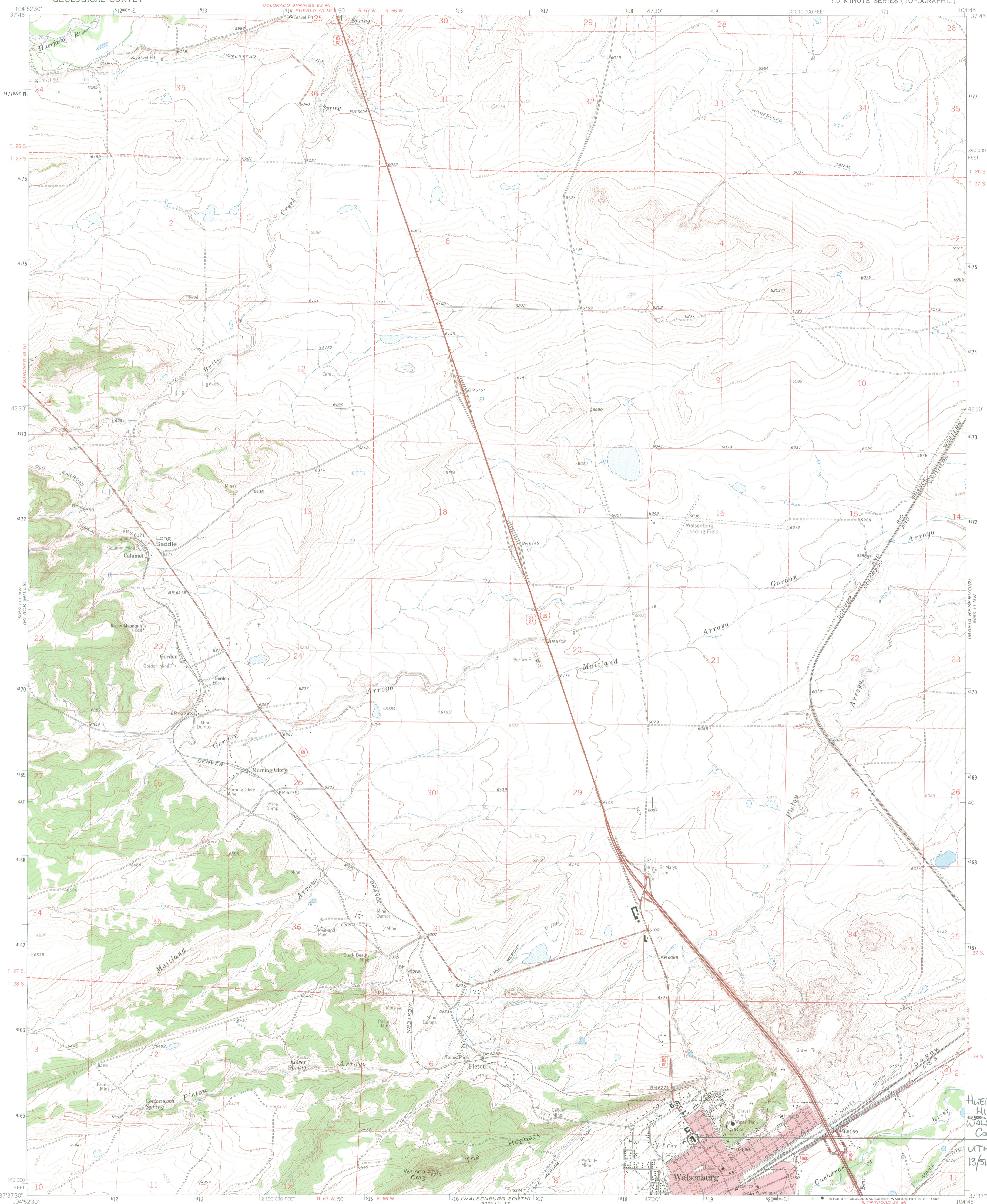
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Huerfano County High School  
Huerfano County, CO

#26

004  
NNNN 026 02.15.05 12305 NEG#-----



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

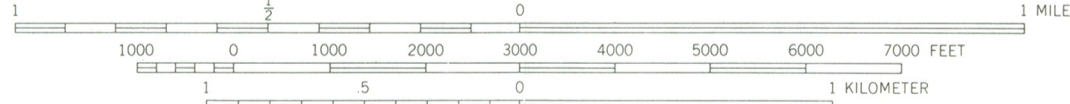
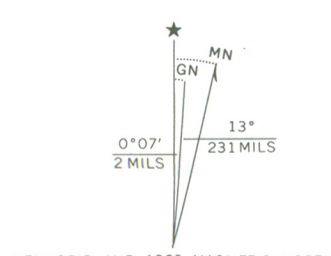
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1963

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

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



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

WALSBURG NORTH, COLO.  
N3737.5—W10445/7.5

1963

AMS 5059 111 NE—SERIES V877

Huerfano County  
High School  
Walsburg, Huerfano  
County, CO

UTM:  
13S188774164677  
(NAD 27)

MAPSCO  
800 Lincoln St.  
Denver, CO 80203  
(303) 622-4299

# COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

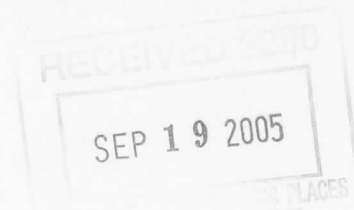


NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTER PROGRAMS

225 East 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 950 Denver, Colorado 80203

303-866-4684 • Fax: 303-866-2041 • E-mail: [holly.wilson@chs.state.co.us](mailto:holly.wilson@chs.state.co.us) • Web Site: [www.coloradohistory-oahp.org](http://www.coloradohistory-oahp.org)

September 9, 2005



Dr. Janet Matthews  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: Huerfano County High School (5HF.2183)

Dear Ms. Matthews:

We are pleased to submit for your approval the enclosed National Register nomination for the Huerfano County High School in Huerfano County. The nomination was reviewed at the August 12<sup>th</sup> Review Board Meeting, at which time the board recommended that the State Historic Preservation Officer forward it to Washington for final review.

We look forward to the formal listing of this property. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (303-866-4684) or by email ([holly.wilson@chs.state.co.us](mailto:holly.wilson@chs.state.co.us)).

Sincerely,

Holly Wilson  
National and State Register Historian

Enclosures  
nomination form  
USGS map  
photographs