

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 Montezuma Schoolhouse

other names/site number 5ST.1043

2. Location

street & number 5375 Webster Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Montezuma [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Summit code 117 zip code 80435

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- [] 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 [] See continuation sheet.

Four horizontal lines for signature and date.

Montezuma Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Summit County/ Colorado
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Rural School Buildings in Colorado

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/ school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION/ museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/ rural school house

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD

roof METAL
other _____

Narrative Description

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

Montezuma Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Summit County/ Colorado
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes 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 the boxes 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 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.

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION
ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance
1884-1958

Significant Dates
1884

Significant Person(s)
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
ROBINSON, DICK
BLAISDELL, T.C.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
Colorado Historical Society
Summit Historical Society

Montezuma Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Summit County/ Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 425601 4381481 (NAD 27)
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] 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 Tom Wheeler, member (Additional material- David Garner, architect)

organization Summit Historical Society date 1 September 2006

street & number 78 S. Hillside Dr, BRR telephone (970) 513-8450

city or town Silverthorne state Colorado zip code 80497

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 Summit Historical Society (President- Walter L. Peterson, M.D.)

street & number P.O. Box 745 telephone (970) 453-9022

city or town Breckenridge state Colorado zip code 80424

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Montezuma Schoolhouse
Summit County/ ColoradoSection number 7 Page 1
Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS**DESCRIPTION**

Built in 1884, the Montezuma Schoolhouse is located in the small, high mountain mining town of Montezuma, Colorado, and is the town's second school. The first school, built in 1880, soon became too small to accommodate the growing number of students. The second school, the nominated building, remains on its original site on an approximately one-third acre lot in the center of the town. The appearance of this school has changed some throughout the years with later additions of clapboard siding, entry foyer, bell tower, and rear appendages consisting of a storage room, coal room, and two privies. The building served Summit School District No. 2 until 1958, when consolidation forced closure of the school. It also functioned as a community center and provided space for the Protestants, who held services in the building (the Catholics had their own building).

The existing landscaping consists of natural vegetation, mostly native grasses, flowers, and trees. The high spot on the site is in the northeast corner and slopes down towards the southwest. On the north side of the building is an above ground propane tank, abandoned utility pole, and tree stump. A swing set complete with slide and teeter-totter sits on the south side and is still used by visitors to the schoolhouse. A mix of large newer houses and small older cabins are scattered around near the school. The school is in good condition and possesses a high degree of historic integrity related to design, materials, workmanship, feeling, location, and setting.

Architecturally, the building is typical of one-room schoolhouses. The local builders constructed the school in a rectangular shape approximately twenty-four feet by thirty feet (24' x 30') with three multi-paned windows on the north and south elevations. The building has just one entry door and transom on the west elevation, which is now protected by the foyer. The roof of the original building is a simple front gable and the roof of the rear appendage is a shed roof. The two privies, now attached to the rear addition, were once detached, free standing, and located at the rear of the site. The stone rubble foundation system secures the building to its site. A sheet metal flue, once serving as exhaust for the school's heat source, pierces the roof line near the center of the schoolhouse and a small bell tower, containing a metal bell, straddles the ridge of the roof of the schoolhouse at the west end. The bell tower has now become a character defining feature of the building.

West façade:

The one story school building is covered with horizontal wood clapboard siding, cornerboards, and a metal front gabled roof. A front gabled vestibule is centered on the façade and provides access into the small room before entering into the actual school building. The main entrance is comprised of a single wood glazed door that is reached by three wood steps. A single 4/4 double-hung window is placed only on the south side of the vestibule. The bell tower sits towards the west end of the roof ridge. It is open on the sides and a pyramidal roof is supported by four corner posts and bracing.

South elevation:

Three evenly spaced 4/4 double-hung windows are placed along the south side of the building. Wood boards that sit atop the stone rubble foundation are visible. The south wall of the shed roof addition contains a single 4/2 double-hung window (the bottom muntin is missing). Attached to the rear of the shed roof addition are the privies. The southern privy contains a single fixed glass pane window opening framed in wood trim.

East (rear) elevation:

The rear of the building displays the shed roof addition and the now-attached privies. There are no doors on this side of the building or privies, although there is a wood framed opening covered with a board in the gable end.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Montezuma Schoolhouse
Summit County/ ColoradoSection number 7 Page 2
Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS**North elevation:**

The north wall of the schoolhouse is identical to the south side with three evenly spaced 4/4 double-hung windows. The north wall of the shed roof addition contains a hatch door. The opening is smaller than the windows on the school, but larger than the privy windows. The northern privy contains a single fixed glass pane window opening framed in wood trim.

Interior:

The inside of the vestibule is covered with vertical tongue and groove, or beadboard, and served as an anteroom to the school room. Blocks along the wall, where hooks once existed, show where students could hang their coats before entering the classroom. The ceiling of the vestibule is clad with the same beadboard that is on the walls. Centered on the west wall of the original schoolhouse building is a four-panel wood door, opening into the single classroom. A transom sits over this door.

The classroom consists of one room with a raised platform that extends the full length of the east end of the room. This raised platform served as the teaching stage and was possibly added at a later date because it is installed directly over the finished floor. On the east wall is a centrally placed four panel wood door that is identical to the door leading from the vestibule into the classroom. The finished floor of the stage is oak tongue and groove while the floor of the classroom is a type of softwood; black rubberized runners cover the original floor in the schoolhouse. According to Summit Historical Society records dated 1988 the original softwood floor was covered with plywood and linoleum that has since been removed.

Walls have the original painted wood wainscoting, fiberboard panels, and bands of black canvas that once served as chalkboards. The wainscoting consists of a wood quarter-round shoe at the base, vertical wood beadboard two and one-half inches wide capped with a flat continuous chamfered wood cap that also serves as the window sill. The top of the wainscoting cap is forty-two and one-half inches above the finished floor. Above the wainscoting the walls and ceiling are painted fiberboard panels along with the black canvas chalkboards. The chalkboards (set along the north, east, and south walls) and fiberboard panels are trimmed with painted wood battens. In the attic there remains evidence of wood shingles and fasteners from the original roofing.

Set up in the classroom are twenty-four metal based wood desks, a variety of textbooks, maps, historic photos of Montezuma and the schoolhouse, and a 1958 calendar.

Photographic evidence indicates the privies were detached from the building and located at the rear of the site. Today the privies are attached to the shed roof addition and are not in usable condition. Each of the privies is a "two-seater" and measure approximately four feet square. The interior walls of the shed roof addition and privies are not clad with any materials, exposing the unfinished wood studs. The floor in the addition and privies is unfinished wood. Seen from the inside of the shed roof addition, the rear exterior wall of the school building displays the original board and batten siding, which helps date the construction of the addition because the horizontal clapboard siding covers the north, south, and west walls of the school as well as the shed roof addition. The clapboards are known to have been added by 1910, indicating that the shed roof addition was in place before the new siding was put on. Playground equipment sits just south of the school and is thought to date to the 1930s. A former student recalls that the equipment was there in the early 1940s when he attended school in the building.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Montezuma Schoolhouse
Summit County/ Colorado

Section number 7 Page 3
Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS

Alterations

Over the years, a number of additions and alterations were made to the school. Although, there is no record of when or who made these changes, historic photos confirm approximately when the changes occurred, all within the period of significance.

By 1910 a vestibule had been added to the west facade, horizontal wood clapboard siding covered the original board and battens, and the bell tower placed atop the roof. The bell was donated by the town of Montezuma and has a patent date of 1908. Electricity was brought in for lights by 1911. Also before 1910, a shed roof addition was put on the rear of the building. It included a coal room and storeroom. From an interview with Bob McCracken, a student in 1943, it was determined the building was still heated with a coal stove and the privies had been moved to the rear of the addition with direct access from the inside by then. Also, the swing, slide, and teeter-totter had been set up as a playground that is still used by the children of the community today. The wood shingle roof was replaced with galvanized metal and a propane tank by 1958 and a heater installed as well. No other changes have been made since 1958.

The interior of the building remains as it was when the school closed in 1958 with various size seats in rows, a raised platform for the teacher, and recitation and black canvas on the walls for chalkboards.

1889-1891 Image

(Image courtesy of Summit Historical Society)



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Montezuma Schoolhouse
Summit County/ Colorado

Section number 7 Page 4
Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS

1910 Image

(Image courtesy of Summit Historical Society)



1921 Image

note privy in background, detached from school

(Image courtesy of Summit Historical Society)



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Montezuma Schoolhouse
Summit County/ Colorado

Section number 8 Page 5
Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS

SIGNIFICANCE

The Montezuma Schoolhouse meets the registration requirements of the schoolhouse property type as delineated in the Multiple Property Documentation Form *Rural School Buildings in Colorado*.

Schoolhouses are associated with the influence of formal education on the development of rural and isolated settlements. These buildings provide physical evidence about the conditions of rural education prevalent in Colorado well into the mid-twentieth century. The school is therefore eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Education. The schoolhouse served as the educational center for this mining community from its construction in 1884 up until consolidation closed the building in 1958.

The schoolhouse is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a building type. The building's purpose is easily discerned by its form. The school exhibits such typical characteristics as a front gabled roof, bell tower, vestibule, tall narrow windows on either side, single classroom with teacher's platform, and privies. Though changes have occurred to the building since its construction, they have all occurred within the period of significance.

The period of significance begins in 1884 with the completion of the school and ends in 1958, the year the school was closed due to consolidation. Since the closing date of the period of significance is slightly less than 50 years, Criteria Consideration G applies. The school retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Historical Background

Verna Sharp provides a scenic description of the mining town of Montezuma, located at the eastern edge of Summit County. She states:

Montezuma lies at an altitude of 10,200 feet in a beautiful little valley on the south fork of the Snake River in Summit County, Colorado. It is surrounded by rugged, forest-clad mountains, which rise to heights of 12,000 and 13,000 feet. Collier Mountain stands to the east; Teller and Glacier to the south; Bear to the west; and Lenawee to the north (6).

Sharp goes on to describe a prospector named Coley who made prospecting trips through South Park, up the North Swan River near Breckenridge, then over the pass at the head of Bear Creek (now called Sts. John Creek), to Glacier Mountain. Though Sharp claims that in 1863 Coley made the first silver discovery in the Territory of Colorado, much documentation exists to clearly show numerous prospectors were well aware that silver deposits existed in the Colorado mountains as early as 1859. Without the ability to smelt the ore, these riches went untapped until the technology was developed in the early 1860s. Authors of *The Rise of the Silver Queen: Georgetown, Colorado 1859-1896* explained that:

Some reports indicated that the Griffith discovery was the first silver mine in the territory. In his 1889 *History of the State of Colorado*, Frank Hall stated: 'No one contests the assertion that George F. and his brother D.T. Griffith were the first to discover silver mines, near the spot where Georgetown was built.' The fact remains, however, that although they found silver, they made no effort to pursue its production (4).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Montezuma Schoolhouse
Summit County/ ColoradoSection number 8 Page 6
Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS

In addition to discoveries of silver ore near Georgetown, the ore was also discovered in Buckskin Joe around 1859 and Silver Mountain (near Empire) in 1860, along with other places in Summit County, but the silver rush didn't begin in earnest until 1864.

Regardless of who made the true first silver discovery, Coley's find brought a number of miners into the region. In June 1865, Montezuma's founders, M. O. Wolf, D.C. Collier, Henry M. Teller (later U. S. Senator from Colorado) and others, were camped in the valley. They named the mountains surrounding them with Collier suggesting the name Montezuma for the proposed town- either for the last Aztec emperor or for the "richness" thought to be in the area (Sharp 7).

The town grew as a result of the discovery and development of over 57 named silver and lead mines in the surrounding mountains until the Montezuma area became one of the largest silver producers in the country. The development could not have happened had it not been for the expansion of transportation routes into this isolated area high along the Continental Divide in the Rocky Mountains. Stephen Decatur and others converted the mule trail over Argentine Pass into a wagon road in 1869. This 13,132 foot pass connected Montezuma to Georgetown, a hub of silver mining activity. The Webster Pass Wagon Road to Breckenridge was built in 1878 by brothers William and Emerson Webster, owners of the Montezuma Silver Mining Company and a local sawmill. In 1879, Loveland Pass opened, providing another route into Georgetown. The Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad extended their tracks to old Keystone on the Snake River in 1883, furthering access into the mountain terrain and the rich ores that lay deep beneath its surface. Oftentimes wagon roads operated as toll roads, bringing in money for these new entrepreneurs (Gilliland 71).

With all the activity and various routes providing access into the valley, the population of Montezuma reached close to 800 by September 1881 (Gilliland 69). Professionals as well as miners were drawn to the area at the height of the silver craze in the Colorado mountains.

Montezuma became incorporated in September 1881 and by 1884, was a well-established town with over a hundred buildings including residences, a bank, school, church, post office, newspaper, three general stores, three hotels, several restaurants and, of course, saloons.

Educational and the spiritual needs were an important part of residents' life as well, especially for those bringing families to the valley. The Montezuma School District No. 2 organized in 1876 to serve the town of Montezuma and the surrounding mining communities of Decatur, Chihuahua, and Sts. John. The first school, constructed in 1876, was located midway between Sts. John and Montezuma and called the Halfway School. With the large influx of people to the area, by 1880 the community outgrew the 1876 school. In 1880 a small log school was built in Montezuma. Adjacent to the Montezuma Schoolhouse, this log building still exists but has been altered for its use as a private residence.

In June 1883, the County Superintendent of Schools visited the Montezuma Schoolhouse and recorded in her log book that "a school building is greatly needed at Montezuma. Bonds have been voted for the erection of a building." The school bond records show that three school bonds were registered on October 4, 1883, for a total of \$1300, payable September 1, 1893, at 12%. On June 14, 1884, the *Montezuma Millrun* printed an article praising the newly completed educational facility:

The schoolhouse has been completed and is a fine piece of workmanship. The size of the building is 24x30 with a ceiling twelve feet nine inches in the clear. The walls are beautifully papered, as is the ceiling. The room is well lighted with three

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Montezuma Schoolhouse
Summit County/ ColoradoSection number 8 Page 7
Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS

windows on each side. The room looks cheerful and on the whole a credit to the contractors 'Dick' Robinson, who, with the assistance of T.C. Blaisdell completed [sic] the same between the 3rd of May and the 1st of June. The completion of the school house is an event long wished for by the citizens of Montezuma and it should be the pride of the people. There is some work that should be done yet, such as underpinning and a platform should be built in front with a covered entrance, and the further improvement of a cupola and a bell should be added. The bell could be used for school hours and used as a fire alarm (3).

The superintendent's log book recorded "July 9, 1884 I visited Montezuma school district 2. School opened July 7, with Miss Pope as teacher. The new house is a fine, roomy, well-arranged building with good new seats, and when they get an (uniform) system of books will have a good school."

In addition to serving as the educational center of the area and the focus of community life for the miners, on weekends the building served as the only Protestant Church for traveling preachers. The most noteworthy of those was Father Dyer from Breckenridge, who was well-known for traveling on skis to provide church services in the mountainous areas of Colorado (Sharp 13-14). Various programs and box socials occurred at the building as a means of raising enough money to purchase an organ for the school.

As with most mining towns, Montezuma prospered when mineral prices were good and but also saw frequent hard times. This is reflected in the school census, which showed 21 students in 1877 and 1882, increasing to 61 in 1885, then declining to 13 in 1895, and increasing again in 1900 to 1916. By 1932 class size was again 8 or less. There was an increase in class size in the early 1950s with a steady decline until consolidation closed the school in 1958.

School records indicate there were 52 teachers over 74 years of operation- a new teacher most every year and only one male teacher in that time. Until 1905, a teacher was paid \$50 or \$60, depending on whether the school session was one or four months. Some years there were two school sessions or, no school at all if a teacher was not available. After 1910 the school session usually ran for nine months.

Members of original and prominent Montezuma families served as teachers. Some of their names are:

Miss Pope, 1884
Gertrude Briggie, 1885-1886
Miss Loecher, 1889-1891
Ruby Carle, 1899
Ann Carbrey, 1910
Josephine Ross, 1928-1930
Verna Gardner, 1931-1933, 1939-1940, 1941-1946, 1954-1958

Miss Gertrude Briggie came alone from Ohio to Denver and Dillon via train, then by horse-drawn wagon to the far reaches of Montezuma. She often trudged through deep snow with firewood for the schoolhouse stove so that her 16 students would have a warm fire waiting for them at the start of the school day (Gilliland 70). Members of the Sharp family also served as officers of the School Board from 1931 to 1957.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Montezuma Schoolhouse
Summit County/ ColoradoSection number 8 Page 8
Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS

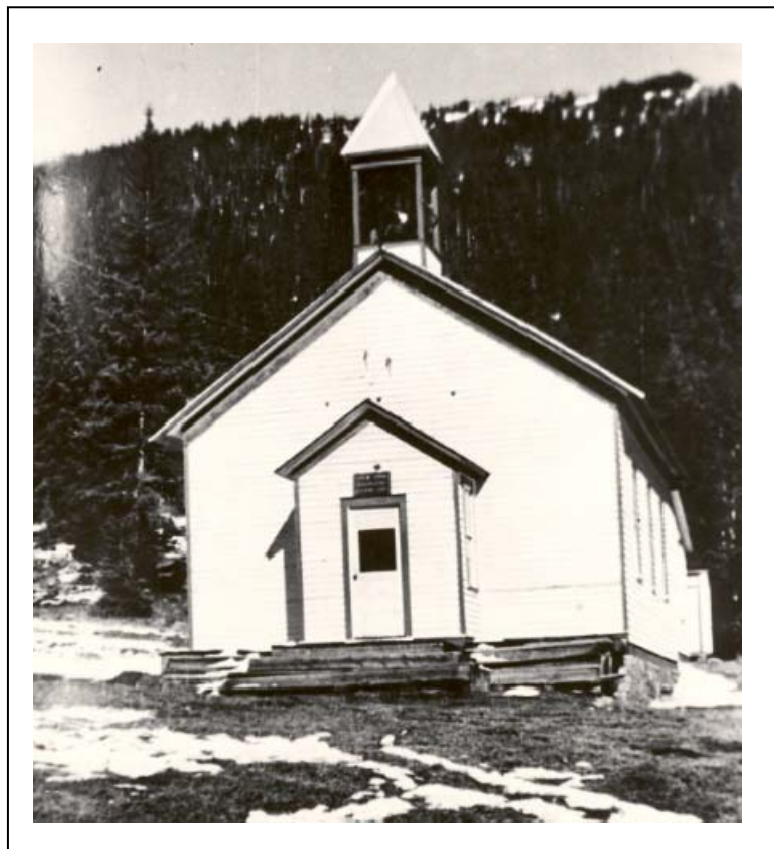
After School District No. 2 consolidated in 1958, the school board retained the building and used it for storage. Volunteers from the town repaired and maintained the building. The town continued to use it for some community meetings, social events, and at least two notable weddings.

On June 14, 1988, the Summit School District conveyed title to the property to the Summit Historical Society (SHS) with the stated purpose of continued preservation and use of the facility. Since then, the SHS has furnished and maintained the schoolhouse as an example of the 1920-50 rural school. The school is open by appointment for class tours, visitors, special holidays, and town events. Since the building is showing some deterioration and is in need of repairs, the SHS has embarked upon a project to restore the Montezuma Schoolhouse.

While the 1880 log school in Montezuma is the oldest remaining rural school of four in the County, the 1884 wood frame building is the oldest intact historic rural school in the County still in its original location. The 1884 Dillon School, though constructed the same year, was converted into a church and moved to its present location when the Dillon Reservoir was constructed in 1963. Built as a saloon in 1900, the building was converted to the Frisco Schoolhouse (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) in 1902. Five significant fires in the Town of Montezuma destroyed many of the original historic buildings over the years. The schoolhouse is the only remaining original public building in the community.

1949 Image

(Image courtesy of Summit Historical Society)



**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Montezuma Schoolhouse
Summit County/ Colorado

Section number 9 Page 9
Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS

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- Summit County School Board- Archives stored in Frisco, Colorado.
- Summit Historical Society website: <http://www.summithistorical.org>. (Accessed May 2005)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Montezuma Schoolhouse
Summit County/ Colorado

Section number ____ Page 11
Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-8 except as noted:

Name of Property: Montezuma Schoolhouse
Location: Summit County/ Colorado
Photographer: David Garner
Date of Photographs: May 29, 2005
Negatives: Summit Historical Society

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
------------------	---------------------------------

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Oblique view of schoolhouse, camera facing southeast. |
| 2 | Oblique view of schoolhouse, camera facing southwest. |
| 3 | North side of schoolhouse, camera facing south. |
| 4 | South side of schoolhouse, camera facing north. |
| 5 | Oblique view of schoolhouse showing west façade and south side, camera facing northeast. |
| 6 | Interior- shed roof addition on rear, looking towards storage (left) and privy door (right). |
| 7 | Interior- rear wall of classroom, view of anteroom/vestibule beyond door. |
| 8 | Interior- front wall of classroom, view of teacher's platform, chalkboard, and door leading into shed roof addition. |

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Montezuma Schoolhouse
Summit County/ Colorado

Section number ___ Page 12
Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Montezuma Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 425601E / 4381481N
PLSS: 6th PM, T5S, R76W, Sec. 0
Unsectioned
Elevation: 10320 feet

