

School House
South Pass Avenue near Jefferson Street
South Pass City
Fremont County
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-46

HABS
WYO,
7-SOPAC,
19-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

APPENDIX
FOLLOWS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20005

SCHOOL HOUSE

HABS
WYO,
7-SOPAC,
19-

Location: North of South Pass Avenue near Jefferson Street, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS South Pass City Quadrangle Map) 12.680960.4703960.

Present Owner: State of Wyoming.

Present Use: Preserved as an historic building by Wyoming Recreation Commission.

Statement of Significance: This school was built in 1910 after the second school house in South Pass City burned down. It is a good example of the turn-of-the-century rural school house.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1910.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: (Note: For further information on land ownership in South Pass City see the HABS Report on South Pass City, WYO-27.) The first public school in Sweetwater County, Wyoming Territory was built in South Pass City in 1870 just east of the corner of South Pass Avenue and Dakota Street. This building was destroyed by fire and a new structure was erected during the 1880's on South Pass Avenue across from the Masonic Temple. This, too, burned and the present structure was erected on the same site. During the 1920's the school building was moved to a new site north of South Pass Avenue near Jefferson Street. It was abandoned in 1946. In 1961 John Woodring bought the school house from the Board of Trustees of School District Number 1. He sold the property to the Wyoming 75th Anniversary Commission in 1966. The Commission turned the property over to the Old South Pass Historical Preserve. In 1969 the Wyoming Legislature placed the property under the control of the Wyoming Recreation Commission which has furnished the building as a typical frontier school house.

4. Alterations and additions: The Wyoming Recreation Commission re-built a small porch on the school building in 1970. Metal screens were placed over the windows ca. 1966. Also, the original stove has been removed from the building.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Before the territory of Wyoming established a school in South Pass City, a private school was opened in 1868 by Robert Baker. He charged one dollar a week for each child. Approximately twenty regular students attended Baker's school during the summer months. The following year, 1869, an Episcopal minister named Fitman conducted a private school for boys.

The first public school for Sweetwater County, was opened in 1870. Judge James Stillman, the first teacher at the public school, was the first person to appear in court before Justice of the Peace Esther Morris, the first female to occupy that judicial position. Stillman had been the predecessor of Mrs. Morris as Justice of the Peace in South Pass City, and was brought to trial "for neglecting and refusing to deliver the records of the Justice of the Peace to his successor." After inspecting the pitiful condition of the Stillman household, Mrs. Morris dismissed the Stillman case.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photograph file, Wyoming Recreation Commission; Cheyenne, Wyoming.

2. Bibliography:

- a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Shaffer, Thomas, planner for the Wyoming Recreation Commission; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on June 19, 1973.

Trevor, Marjorie C., "History of Carter-Sweetwater County, Wyoming to 1875." Master's thesis, University of Wyoming; 1954.

- b. Secondary and published sources:

Stratton, Fred D., Jr. Early History of South Pass City, Wyoming. South Pass City: Fred D. Stratton Jr., 1955.

PART II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This building is a typical example of an early twentieth century one-room school.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This building is a simple frontier school building of rectangular shape and approximately 19' x 31'.
2. Foundations: Random rubble red slate shist.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Unfinished hand-hewn lodgepole pine logs with wood and concrete chinking. The gable at each end wall has been resurfaced with green asphalt shingles.
4. Structural system, framing: Bearing log walls with corner posts. New 2 x 6 joists and rafters.
5. Porches: A covered and enclosed entry was added at a later date. It was rebuilt by the state in 1970. This entry is located on the east front of the building. Visitors are permitted only into the entry and not into the school room.
6. Chimneys: There is one brick chimney in the center of the west rear wall which is brick above seven feet and has a wooden storage closet below (the closet supports upper chimney). There is also a metal flue in the southwest area of the building.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The original entry doorway in the center of the east (front) wall has no door. There is a new door centered in the east wall of the added entry room.
 - b. Windows: All windows are wooden double-hung with four-over-four light sash. There are two on the south wall and three on the north wall. They are now covered by a metal security mesh on the exterior.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roof now has green asphalt shingles covering the original wooden shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed raking cornice and eaves overhang walls ten inches.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The single school room in this building (other than the added entry area) is oriented toward the teachers desk and teaching aids along the rear wall.
2. Flooring: 1 x 4 tongue and groove pine flooring is mostly unfinished now, but there is evidence of stain and varnish along perimeter walls.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Unfinished four foot by eight foot sheets of brown fiberboard with beveled-edge, 2 1/2 inch battens of similar material covering joints.
4. Decorative features and trim: There are three blackboards; one is 36 inches in height and is located on the south wall between the two windows. One is on the west (rear) wall and the third is on the north wall. An enclosed storage space is located under the brick chimney.
5. Heating: The building now contains a cast-iron stove that replaces the original stove. It is not connected to the chimney flue. There is an opening on the south wall which may have been used to pass wood through from the outside.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The school is located on a rise above South Pass Avenue in what is now the northeast part of town and faces 70 degrees east of north.
2. Outbuildings: There is a privy northwest of the school which may have been associated with the school.

Prepared by J. William Rudd
Architect
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
Summer, 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhlir, University of California at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.

ADDENDUM TO:
SCHOOL HOUSE
South Pass Avenue, near Jefferson Street
South Pass City
Freemont County
Wyoming

HABS No. WY-46

HABS

WYO

7-SOPAC,

19-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20001