

MESA COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS

List: Name, location and brief description of property and significance; include National/State Register listing date and State ID number if any

1. **LONG FAMILY CABIN**

3117 F Road (Long Family Park), Grand Junction vicinity

The historic Long family home was built in the 1930s using logs from the Grand Mesa. The surrounding farm land, which is now Long Family Park, used to be part of Cross Orchards (listed on the National Register and part of the Museum of Western Colorado). The cabin represents a piece of Mesa County's agricultural heritage. William A. and Mollie Long established the farm in 1920s, where they raised their two children. Mollie sold fruit and vegetables from a log stand on the property.



Photo courtesy of Museum of Western Colorado

2. **OLD MESA GYMNASIUM AND AUDITORIUM (Mesa Community Hall)**

48973 KE Road, Mesa

The Old Mesa Gymnasium and Auditorium, built around 1936, is a unique example of rural vernacular architecture in Colorado. Its rubble foundation, log construction, and wide gabled roof of corrugated metal reflect building styles of earlier eras such as the mining camp phase of the late 1880s in Colorado. Logs were cut and milled locally. The building is also typical of "armory construction," in which all features of an armory and community or recreation center were combined into one structure to efficiently serve more than one purpose. The Old Mesa Gym was constructed as a Works Progress Administration project to serve as a community/recreation center for the public. It has a fold-down stage, to clear the floor for basketball games and other events, and was known as having "one of the best dance floors in the county."



3. MESA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
544 Rood Avenue, Grand Junction
(Grand Junction Register)

The Mesa County Courthouse was constructed in 1922 at a cost of \$293,000. It replaced the original courthouse located at 6th and Main Streets. Designed by Eugene Groves, the Second Renaissance Revival-style building was constructed of brick faced with Indiana limestone. It is distinguished by arch-topped windows separated by paired Ionic columns, a grand entry with bronze doors, and a balustrade at the roof. The wide front lawn further sets off the imposing structure. A substantial brick addition, design by Robert A. Van Deusen, was constructed on the north side of the building in 1964. Mesa County was created in 1883, the result of a division of Gunnison County, and Grand Junction was designated as the County seat.



4. COLLBRAN AUDITORIUM
102 Main Street, Collbran

The Collbran Auditorium was built in 1907. The building is described as “Mission Style,” based on its false front, while the structure itself is distinctive for its arched truss design. Commissioned by Doctor Zinke, the 5,096 square-foot building was built by local carpenters Copley, Kendall, Harris and Winston. The Collbran Auditorium was built to serve as a community gathering place, with a stage and wood floors. Over the years, it has been used for many community events, including social functions, public meetings, and recreation activities. Displays of local brands, boxes of roller skate wheels, and vintage movie projectors are reminders of its past uses.



The building is simple in its detailing. The front (west) facade is capped by a stepped parapet that curves at the top to follow the roof. There are two sets of windows on either side of the double doors. Originally accessed by a simple raised platform with steps to either side, a porch roof was added in more recent years. On the sides, shed-roofed dormers extend out from the curved roof, and a double-door entrance is centered on the south facade. The roof and side walls have been modified, primarily to address water infiltration issues, but additions have encapsulated the existing building, leaving the original structure intact. On the interior, small rooms have been added at the west end, and the ceiling has been dropped. The original wood paneling, flooring and stage remain.

5. MOON FARM
1360 18 ½ Road, Fruita

The farmhouse at Moon Farm is a 1935-1937 Resettlement home built by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp) as part of the GVRP (Grand Valley Resettlement Project) under Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency. It is one of forty two homes built in the Fruita/Loma area. Original plans for the resettlement homes in the area were to be built out of adobe bricks made from clay found in the surrounding valley. Walls were to be twelve inches thick, stucco outside and plastered inside. Somehow, a mistake occurred and the plans for the Montana project were used instead. Therefore, the farmhouse was built as a two story home with a 12-12 pitch gable roof. The walls are of wood construction/wire, lath, and plaster. Floors are ¾" tongue and groove hardwood on a 45-degree angle to the floor joist. It also has a full basement.



In 1954 the Moon family moved to this resettlement farm which consisted of the farmhouse, chicken coop, and garage/milking shed. The farmhouse was used for children's meetings, story time, movie theater on rainy days, and many other uses. The farmhouse was also a focal point for the Moon Farm Day Camp that operated from 1976-2008. In 1965, David Moons kindergarten class came out to Moon Farm for the first field trip. Soon after, visitors started coming to the farm and to this day children still come out for field trips. Moon Farm got its name from all the kids saying that they were going to Moon's Farm.