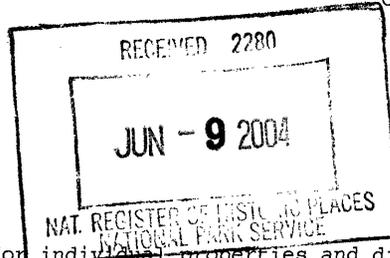


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting 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 box 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: Midas Schoolhouse
other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number Second Street, two blocks east of Main Street not for publication N/A
city or town Midas vicinity N/A
state Nevada code NV county Elko code 007 zip code 89414

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 for additional comments.)

Ronald M. Jones, SHPO 6-8-04
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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 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): Edson H. Beall 7/21/04
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
roof Composition Shingle
walls WOOD/Shiplap
other _____

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

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
- 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 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)

EDUCATION
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance 1928-1951
 Significant Dates 1928, 1943
 Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
 Cultural Affiliation N/A
 Architect/Builder Unknown/Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite 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: Friends of Midas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.46 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>11</u>	<u>517240</u>	<u>4565460</u>	<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>4</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>				

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 Mella Harmon, State Historic Preservation Office with the Assistance of Dan Bennett, Friends of Midas

organization State Historic Preservation Office date February 6, 2004

Street & number 100 N. Stewart Street telephone 775-684-3447

city or town Carson City state NV zip code 89701

12. 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)

13. Property Owner

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

name Friends of Midas
street & number HC66, Box 75 telephone
city or town Midas state NV zip code 89414

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7, 8 Page 1

Midas Schoolhouse, Midas, Elko County, Nevada

Section 7. Description

The Midas Schoolhouse was built in 1927-1928 in the remote mining town of Midas, Nevada. The small, (±1,400-square feet) north-facing building sits on a half-acre parcel of land. The playground, with original equipment installed in 1936, is located in front of the building. Two original outhouses, one for boys and one for girls, are located in opposite corners at the back of the building. The main building is rectangular in plan, with a small centrally placed vestibule that projects about five feet beyond the plane of the façade. In the rear, a small storeroom, a restroom, and a furnace room are located in the space that originally housed the coal and woodbins.

The cross-gabled roof was originally sheathed with wood shakes, but is now covered in composition shingles. The exterior wood siding is horizontal shiplap, and the building sits on a raised concrete foundation. There is a bank of five tall, six-over-six, double-hung windows in the north-facing elevation of each classroom. A double glass door, containing 10 lights each provides entry into the vestibule and there are two small one-over-four fixed windows on the west and east elevations. A small square belfry, capped with a gable roof, sits atop the roof on the west end. The two-holer outhouses are side gabled and of the same horizontal shiplap as the school building.

Architecturally, the building, although simple in form and decoration, exhibits characteristics derived from the Craftsman style, mostly in terms of scale and massing. The school was built during the style's popularity period (roughly 1905 through the 1930s), and was clearly influenced by certain sensibilities of the style.

Integrity

The Midas Schoolhouse retains a high degree of the seven aspects of integrity. The only exterior changes made since its construction is the replacement of the shake roof with a fire retardant material with the appearance of wood, the replacement of the cement stairs with wooden ones, an exact reconstruction of the belfry, and the replacement of the school bell with a #20 cast-iron bell. On the interior, paint and stain colors were matched to the original. The east classroom is now a community meeting room and the west room is a museum.

Section 8. Statement of Significance

The Midas Schoolhouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the educational and social history of the remote, early-twentieth-century mining town.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Midas Schoolhouse, Midas, Elko County, Nevada

Section 8. Significance, continued

The last decade of the nineteenth century was a time of economic depression in Nevada. The mining industry was in a statewide slump, and agriculture, Nevada's only other economic mainstay, failed to fill the void. In 1900, however, two developments led to a new mining boom period in Nevada. The discovery of gold and silver in southern Nevada, especially around Tonopah and Goldfield, and the rediscovery of copper in White Pine County in eastern Nevada spurred renewed efforts by corporate mining interests and individual prospectors. In turn, there was resurgence in the growth and development of small mining towns throughout the state during the first decade of the twentieth century. Midas was one of a number of towns that resulted from this phase of mining fervor.

Midas, Nevada

In the spring of 1907, James McDuffy and his two sons were prospecting near Summit Creek in Elko County just east of the Humboldt County line. The area was not unknown; over the years, panning in that location had yielded rich and promising gold flakes. Prospectors had been seeking the origin of this gold for some time without success. During his trip, McDuffy made a major discovery; he found the source. He called the district "Gold Circle" because "a perfect circle of malipi" surrounded the belt, which he asserted was three miles long and one mile wide. The find drew attention, and quickly a townsite was platted and lots sold. It was not until the Elko County Commission approved the plat map on November 4, 1907 that Gold Circle was officially established. The county organized judicial and election precincts in March and July 1908, respectively (Bennett 1995).

When the new town, represented by Patrick Leamy, applied to the federal government for a post office, the name Gold Circle was disallowed. The government refused to approve yet another post office in Nevada with "gold" in its name. Instead, the post office assigned the name Midas, which had been used by the post office in Ione in Nye County until 1903. The Elko County Commission followed suit, changing the judicial and election districts to Midas, as well (Bennett 1995).

In 1908, more than 2,000 people crowded into the tiny town, but most of them left as soon as the snow began to fall that winter. The various mines in the Gold Circle Mining District produced slowly until 1915, when the construction of a cyanide mill at Midas brought prosperity. In 1922, the mill burned and production was halted for a time. Largely due to the involvement of Lander County senator Noble Getchell in Midas mining ventures after the mill fire, the mid-1920s saw an upswing in mineral production and the concomitant rise in population. Despite a short-term decline in 1929, Getchell's enthusiastic promotion of the town sustained it through the Great Depression. By the end of the decade, however, signs of decline were becoming evident and one by one the mines were closing down. By 1942,

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Midas Schoolhouse, Midas, Elko County, Nevada

Section 8. Significance, continued

the cost of doing business as America's involvement in World War II was gearing up sealed the town's fate (Bennett 1995).

Following the war, the population of Midas ranged from a high of 40 in the 1950s to a low of 1 in the 1960s. When the county school district finally decided to divest itself of the Midas Schoolhouse in 1972, it was sold to a consortium of sportsmen, which was appropriate, as Midas had gone from being a mining community to a recreation and vacation center. The new population came for the summer with their travel trailers. With mineral prices at an all-time high in the late 1980s, large international mining corporations looked at Nevada mineral resources with renewed interest. In the early 1990s, the Midas Joint Venture, a partnership between Franco-Nevada and Franco-Euro Mining Companies began gold and silver exploration in the Midas area. The Joint Venture established the Ken Snyder Mine, and according to a mine spokesman in 1999, invested more than \$100 million in the area (Associated Press 1999).

Midas Schools

Early on, the population of Midas was large enough to warrant the establishment of a school for the area's youngsters. When the town sought to open its first school in time for the 1908-1909 school year, residents discovered that the town was not eligible for school funds because it had not been included in a state-mandated survey earlier in 1908. Elko County's annual report to the state superintendent of education recommended that the law be changed as soon as possible because it created a hardship for new districts, such as Gold Circle. In the meantime, Elko County and the brand new Midas School District cooperated to provide for the 30 to 40 school-aged children in the district, and school commenced January 1, 1909 (Bennett 1995:27).

The town's first school building was located on a hill to the east above the main part of town. Five or six years later, a larger facility was built near the original one. For the next 10 years, the first school, called the "Little School" housed the lower grades (first through fifth). The new building, known as the "Big School" contained the upper grades (sixth through eighth, and occasionally the first year of high school). By 1916, not long after the mill was built and the town was experiencing a period of prosperity, the Midas School District enrolled 34 students and employed two teachers, one at each school.¹ The success of the mines and the student population continued on an upswing until 1922, when the mill exploded and the local economy was sent into a depression (Bennett 1995).

¹ Neither of the original Midas Schoolhouses has survived.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Midas Schoolhouse, Midas, Elko County, Nevada

Section 8. Significance, continued

Thanks to Nobel Getchell's uniting of a number of Midas mines under the auspices of the Gold Circle Consolidated Mining Company in the mid-1920s, the depression was relatively short-lived and resultant prosperity benefited the school district. In 1926, the Midas School District requested enough money to educate six students, but by the next year, the Midas School District employed two teachers. In 1928, 50 children were enrolled in the Midas schools, and Parent-Teacher Association meetings were common. A major development of the school district for that year was the decision to build a new schoolhouse. This followed on the heels of the 1926 Elko County report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction that "practically all of the schools [in the county] with two or more teachers have first-class buildings, Contact and Midas excepted" (Bennett 1995:103).

Midas children began the 1927 school year in the Big and Little Schools on the hill, but their elders determined that it would be the last year in those buildings. That fall, Midas voters approved a \$12,000 bond measure to fund the construction of a new two-room schoolhouse. The school board trustees, F.M. Macy, Paul Ehlers, and C.S. Warren, published a notice of intent to sell bonds to finance the new school building. The new school was completed in 1928 and the debt on the building was retired in 1935. The county's next report to the state described the Midas school as "modern in every respect." He noted that a "teacherage" had been added in the fall of 1928 and that "school conditions are now such as to induce good teachers to desire employment there with some degree of permanency." In October 1936, the "Midas News Notes," a column featured in the *Battle Mountain Scout* newspaper, announced the installation of playground equipment at the school: "the new swings at Midas grammar school help to make recess and noon more fun." A year later, workers employed by the Works Progress Administration completed more than \$200 worth of work at the schoolhouse, mostly fencing (Bennett 1995).

Although Midas never had a church, the town's small population developed a sense of community through activities that involved all family members. There were dances, barbecues, and card parties. The Midas Orchestra provided the music the community events. The local Mother's Club, which was suggested by the town's teachers, was the instigator of many of the activities, especially those for the children. They sponsored the annual Christmas program and collected donations towards the children's tree and to pay for gifts so Santa Claus would visit every child in Midas. Despite the fact that Midas was rough and remote, the children were provided every advantage from dance lessons to a 4-H club and an excellent education in a modern schoolhouse (Bennett 1995).

The school's enrollment reflected the fortunes of the town. Despite the modern new facilities, the school district experienced the same highs and lows as the mining district. Although the school started the new boom period with two teachers, only one teacher was employed by the school district from 1930 to 1935. Fifty students attended Midas school for at least two years during this period, however in 1933 only 16 children were enrolled. By September 1938, 20 pupils were registered. This number remained relatively

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Midas Schoolhouse, Midas, Elko County, Nevada

Section 8. Significance, continued

constant for the next few years. In 1942, the war put a crimp in Nevada mining production, largely due to rationing of gasoline and tires, necessary to the industry. Despite the restrictions, however, it appears that the Gold Circle Mining District suffered a natural demise. High-grade ore, never the bulk of production in the district, had become even rarer by 1942. Low-grade ore, which was more common in Midas mines, was also becoming scarce. Although the mines still contained gold and silver, the high costs of production discouraged mining (Bennett 1995).

The town of Midas suffered with the mines. In March 1942, "Midas News Notes" reported that numerous people were moving out of the district, and only eight children were attending the town's school. On September 16, 1942, the post office was closed permanently. The next day, it was observed that the number of school children had decreased to six, consisting of two groups of three students from the Esmeralda Mine and Squaw Valley Ranch. Only 17 people voted in the November general election, and by the end of 1942, the school was closed because it failed to enroll the minimum requirement of three students. The closure was short-lived, however. The school reopened in 1943 and continued until at least 1951, albeit with a small student body.

January 12, 1972, the *Elko Daily Free Press* reported that the school board had voted to close the Midas School permanently. Elko County School District Superintendent Robert Zander explained that the last students had left the area and recommended that the teacher be transferred to Carlin. The Board requested an appraisal on the building, equipment, and lots, and five months later advertisement of the sale was authorized, noting a minimum bid of \$5,663. On July 11, 1972, the Board accepted a bid of \$6,000 from Dr. Tom Pitts of Reno, representing a partnership of nine owners, which used the school as a hunting lodge for 23 years. When the Midas Joint Venture came to town for minerals exploration in the area, they purchased the schoolhouse to use as an office while new mine buildings were under construction. In 1998, Midas Joint Venture donated the schoolhouse to the non-profit group Friends of Midas. The school has been carefully restored and it is one of the best-preserved two-room schoolhouses in Nevada.

Summary

The town of Midas looked to its grammar school as the cultural institution for the community. Notwithstanding its remoteness, and severe winters, the town of Midas managed to provide a suitable education to its children despite the capriciousness of the mining industry. The nature of mining is reflected in the history of school, from its construction during a boom period, through years of low enrollment, to the final sale of the building by the school district. Finally, the significance of the schoolhouse to the life of the town is being recognized by the Friends of Midas, who are preserving the building in its original condition.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9, 10 Page 6

Midas Schoolhouse, Midas, Elko County, Nevada

Section 9. Bibliography

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1995 *Forward with Enthusiasm: Midas, Nevada, 1907-1995*. Great Basin Press, Reno.

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Elliott, Russell R.

1987 *History of Nevada*. Second Edition. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester

1990 *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

Toll, David W.

1997 *The Complete Nevada Traveler*. Gold Hill Publishing Company, Inc., Virginia City.

Section 10. Geographical Data

Boundary Description

The National Register boundaries of the Midas Schoolhouse includes three parcels totaling 0.46-acre identified as Assessor's Parcel Numbers 003-502-003, 003-502-002, and 003-502-001, Elko County, Nevada.

Boundary Justification

Resource boundaries include all land commonly associated with the lot identified as Elko County, Nevada APNs 003-502-003, 003-502-002, and 003-502-001.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photographs Page 7

Midas Schoolhouse, Midas, Elko County, Nevada

Photographs

Property Name: Midas Schoolhouse

Property Location: Second Street, two blocks east of Main Street
Midas, Elko County
Nevada

Photographer: Dan Bennett

Date of Photograph: January 2, 2004

Location of Negative: Friends of Midas
HC 66, Box 75
Midas, Nevada

Photograph 1: Midas Schoolhouse
North elevation, facing southwest

Photograph 2: Midas Schoolhouse
Eastside outhouse, facing southeast