

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000747

Date Listed: 7/17/96

Property Name: Nemo School House
County: Lawrence State: South Dakota

none
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Sinda McClelland
Signature of the Keeper

July 17, 1996
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 5

The list of resources is hereby amended to include one non-contributing building to the list and total of resources to correspond to the modern garage.

Section 8

The nomination is hereby amended to add "architecture" as an area of significance to correspond to the property's significance under criterion C.

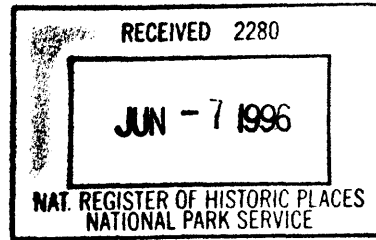
Megan Dobbs, National Register coordinator for the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment on July 17, 1996.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

147

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 Nemo School House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Nemo Road not for publication _____
city or town Nemo vicinity _____
state South Dakota code SD county Lawrence code 081 zip code 57759

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Voigt
Signature of certifying official

05-24-96
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

name of property NEMO SCHOOL

county and state LAWRENCE, SD

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): _____

Linda McClelland 7/17/96

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </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

name of property NEMO SCHOOL

county and state LAWRENCE, SD

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education

Sub: School

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic

Sub: Multi Family Dwelling
(Vacation Residence)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation MASONRY

roof SHINGLE

walls WOOD FRAME

other BRICK CHIMNEYS

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

- 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

name of property NEMO SCHOOL

county and state LAWRENCE, SD

Period of Significance 1928-1945

Significant Dates 1928

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

_____ N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation _____ N/A _____

Architect/Builder _____ Unknown _____

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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

x Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: Lawrence County Courthouse

name of property NEMO SCHOOL county and state LAWRENCE, SD

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.2 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	619540	4894145	3	_____	_____
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 Larry Shedd date Dec. 1995
organization ISRR Investors telephone (612)488-1801
street & number 14045 23rd Street North state MN zip code 55082
city or town Stillwater

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)

name of property NEMO SCHOOL

county and state LAWRENCE, SD

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name ISRR Investors

street & number 14045 23rd Street North

telephone (612)488-1801

city or town Stillwater

state MN zip code 55082
=====

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 Page 1

Physical Description:

The Nemo Schoolhouse is a two-story frame building with a full basement. It rests on approximately 1.19 acres in the town of Nemo, South Dakota. Originally built circa 1900, it served as a small-town school until 1988. The building embodies the growth of rural education in South Dakota during the early twentieth century. While the exterior of the building maintains a high degree of architectural integrity, the interior has been altered for rehabilitation into a multiple-family vacation residence. Some interior walls have been moved and the kitchen and bathrooms have been updated, but many of the original materials and decorations of the school have been incorporated into its new function.

The school features a rectangular floor plan and a concrete foundation. The central two-story hip projection of its hip roof contains the main entrance to the school. Under a gabled entry porch roof, the original door has been replaced but the transom is still in place. A pair of nine-over-six windows are above the entry porch roof. On the first and second floors, there are two pairs of nine-over-nine windows on either side of the entrance. The rear elevation has a string of nine-over-nine windows on each floor. The building's original cedar-shake roof was replaced in the 1960s with corrugated steel. Playground equipment such as swings, teeter-totters, a maypole, and merry-go-round are still present on the lot.

The interior of the building features a central staircase that splits to both sides before ascending to the second floor. Two flights of stairs also lead to the basement, where home economics was taught. The south wall of this room is lined with windows in the upper half of the wall. Four additional small rooms in the basement are located on each side of the stairs. These rooms housed furnaces and other mechanical and maintenance items. They were also used for storage.

Two large classrooms are located on the south side of the first floor. Two additional rooms are on the north side, along with the boys' and girls' bathrooms, one on each side of the stairs. Two additional classrooms are found on the south side of the second floor, which also housed the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

science laboratory and library. All four classrooms and both storerooms have floor-to-ceiling windows. An iron fire escape in the southwest corner of the building provides egress from the second floor. The building can be exited from the rear from the classroom on the west end of the first floor. The front entrance in the center of the north side is at a grade halfway between the basement and the first floor. A small entrance foyer that is attached to the front of the building. Original double doors separate the foyer from the staircase. The school bell was mounted on the roof above the foyer.

Currently being used as a vacation residence, the building has undergone a very sensitive renovation, some of which has actually restored significant features of the property. The enclosed staircase was reopened and restored. All interior doors were retained and are used throughout. The original fenestration was maintained as were the bathrooms' stalls and features, the only alteration being the addition of shower stalls. Light fixtures were repaired, cleaned and retained. The first-floor classrooms have been renovated into a living area, and a bedroom with a bath containing the kitchen with dining area. Original storage closets and blackboards have been retained as well. Almost all trim is original; new trim to match has been installed where needed. A native-rock fireplace with a gas log has been added to the gathering room. The second floor landing is also original, including the doors and hardware. The four second-story rooms have been renovated into bedrooms. Partitions have been added to create four bathrooms on the second floor, one off each bedroom. These partitions do not go to the ceiling, thus preserving the feeling of the open classroom space. Although the partitions are sheetrock, all walls originally plastered have been repaired and retained.

Throughout the structure, care has been exercised to retain the character of the original schoolhouse. Trim, blackboards, light fixtures, hardware and wall surfaces have been kept in their original state where possible. Many items the school board originally in the school were purchased and used for decoration. These include the old piano, tables, desks and schoolbooks. Great care has been taken to ensure that the outside retains its historic character. The steel roof has been replaced

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7,8 Page 3

with forty year "Timberline" shakes. The chimneys and steel ventilators on the roof have been repaired. Wood siding is original and will be painted white. All of the playground equipment has been retained. The only change in the landscaping has been to provide proper drainage away from the building. A new detached garage was added, replicating the style of the schoolhouse and its roofline.

Although the building's function has changed, the Nemo Schoolhouse retains a high degree of integrity. No changes were made to the exterior apart from the new roof. Those made on the interior only benefit the life span of the property.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nemo Schoolhouse is historically significant under Criterion A for its contribution to education in the Nemo area. It is also significant under Criterion C as an example of early 20th-century public building. The building is typical of the early schools associated with permanent urban settlements in South Dakota. Many of these schools have been torn down or changed so dramatically that they are no longer identifiable. This simple structure stands as a reminder of rural educational buildings once so prevalent in South Dakota communities.

Located next to the Black Hills National Forest, the Nemo area hosts many tourists. As a result, many original buildings have been destroyed for more modern tourist accommodations. The renovation of this school building is a significant step in retaining some of the historic character, of the town now dominated by Forest Service operations and personnel. Nemo has few public buildings left. These are the school, the church and a community building, all of which stand adjacent to the Forest Service building.

The area was originally settled by miners coming to the Black Hills to work the prosperous ore mines. Many of the small towns from this period of are now archaeological sites or retain only a small portion of their original buildings. The Nemo schoolhouse is one of the few original

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

buildings remaining in the area; and several original sawmills and supporting buildings are gone. It remains one of the best-preserved buildings in the community from its time period. It was also one of the first buildings in the area to have indoor plumbing and heat.

The heavily influenced Craftsman-style building is typical of its time. Stylistically, this two-story building was a popular pattern school. The state of South Dakota regulated school building patterns regarding windows, entrances and space. This building, with its large floor-to-ceiling windows and room arrangement, is an excellent surviving example of such regulation. As school districts consolidated, more sophisticated schools had to be constructed. The regulations of window size, for increased light, and room size, to accommodate larger classes, was intended to appease communities and students alike. The property was a modern building when it was constructed in 1928, and its strong continued presence attests to the quality of craftsmanship. The building remains one of the best-preserved buildings of its type in the Black Hills region.

The Nemo School accommodated both grade-school and high-school students from throughout the area. Grades one through eight were taught in the first-floor rooms, while high-school students received instruction on the second level, which also housed the library and science lab. Home economics was taught in the basement. Special activities such as boys' and girls' basketball, a 15-member high-school band and a vocal music group were some of the extracurricular activities afforded the students. In competition with surrounding towns, Nemo students won many ribbons and trophies for academic excellence, crafts, sports and other projects.

In 1939, when the Homestake sawmill left town, local families gradually moved away, and school attendance dwindled. In the fall of 1970, the Nemo children from the fourth grade and up were bussed to Lead-Deadwood schools. In 1988, the Lead-Deadwood school board decided to close the school due to the small number of students. At the time of closing, there were only five students.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8,9,10 Page 5

The building now contributes to the area as a summer cabin. Although it no longer functions as a school, it is an excellent example of adaptive reuse of a historic property. The town of Nemo has shrunk over recent years and now caters to seasonal tourists who utilize the nearby Forest Service campground and private tourist cabins. The Nemo Schoolhouse stands as a reminder of the former town.

Bibliography

Adams, Norma and Elton. Nemo, South Dakota, 100 Years. 1969.

Fielder, Mildred. Lawrence County, Dakota Territory Centennial 1861-1961. 1960.

Verbal Boundary Description

The Nemo School resides on Lot 21 of Section 27 in Township 3 north of Range 5. It lies east of the Black Hills Meridian.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Nemo School House.