

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240

August 30, 2010

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45th day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Edson Beall Historian

National Register of Historic Places

Phone: 202-354-2255

E-mail: Edson_Beall@nps.gov Web: www.nps.gov/history/nr NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service 6-6



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.

Block 3)	Not for publication []	
City or town Ellsworth Vicinity []		
eridan Code 16	1 Zip code 69340	
ant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locall Date Date	y. ([] See continuation sheet for	
Date		
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	ct of 1986, as amended, I hereby certegistering properties in the National Record for the property [X] mant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally Date 14, 2	

Name of Property		County and 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) X Building(s) District Site Structure	Number of Rese (Do not include previous Contributing 1 0 0	Noncontributing 0 0 0	n the count.)
i ubile-lederal	Object	0	0	_ Objects _ Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Historic and Architectural School Buildings in NE		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) EDUCATION/school		Current Function (Enter categories fro VACANT/NOT IN	m instructions.)	
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.) NO STYLE		Materials (Enter categories from Stundation Stundation Walls Wood from Stundation Stunda	eel skids	
		Roof Asphalt	shingle	

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

District 119 North School

Name of Property

Sheridan County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

The District 119 North School is currently located in Ellsworth, Sheridan County, Nebraska. Ellsworth is an unincorporated community in the southern Sand Hills ranching area of the county. School District 119 was centered in Ellsworth where their main 1932 frame school building (School District 119 South) remains extant, but has been covered with vinyl siding. In 1951, the school district added another school, District 119 North School, to better serve the families of ranches too far from Ellsworth to comfortably travel every day for classes. Having once been situated in the ranch yards of the families it served, at present, the District 119 North School is located in Ellsworth.

The District 119 North School is a rectangular-shaped, one story wood frame structure with an asphalt shingle gabled roof. The school measures ten feet by sixteen feet, creating 160 square feet of space. It has no foundation, but rests on two steel skids to allow for the school to be moved where the children were living. The skids look much like skis and extend just beyond the exterior walls of the school. The south façade contains an off center wood paneled door and one two-over-two double hung window under the end gable. A non-historic wooden deck with steps and a ramp has been placed in front of the door. The east elevation of the school has a set of four ribbon windows, all two-over-two double hung windows matching the window on the front façade. The north and west elevations are unbroken wood frame walls.

Entering the interior of the school, a doorless closet is located just to the right of the entrance. The closet had hooks for coats and a shelf near the top. The single room has a hardwood floor with broad baseboards and door and window trim. The desks were located in the middle of the room, with the windows at the pupils' right side, providing excellent morning light. A small blackboard is located on the north wall, with a teacher's desk at the front of the room. Lacking indoor plumbing, water would be carried into the school and stored in a crock. Restrooms consisted of privies located nearby.

The District 119 North School retains a high degree of historic integrity. The interior has not been changed significantly, and the only exterior alteration to the building was the addition of a wooden porch which provided steps and a ramp up to the front door. It merely abuts the front façade of the small building, and could be removed without causing damage to the school itself.

District 119 North School Name of Property			Sheridan County, Nebraska County and State	
8. 5	Sta	tement of Significance		
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)		in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)	
		al Register listing.)	ARCHITECTURE	
X /	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	EDUCATION	
	В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.		
<u>X</u> (С	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.	Period of Significance 1951 - 1961	
_ 1	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.		
0.11		Canaddanatana	Significant Dates	
	Criteria Considerations Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) 1951		Section 1997 and the contract of the contract	
Prop	ert	y is:		
_ '	A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person	
X E	В	Removed from its original location.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)	
_ (C	A birthplace or a grave.	N	
	D	A cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation	
_ 1	E	A reconstructed building, object, or structure.		
- 1	F	A commemorative property.		
_ (G	Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.		
			Architect/Builder	
		Other transfer of the second	Torville Erickson, carpenter	
	in th	re Statement of Significance ne significance of the property on one or more continuation		
	- 2	or Bibliographical References		

District	119	North	Schoo
Name of F	rope	rty	

Sheridan County, Nebraska

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

Easting 1.

Northing

Zone Easting Northing

725303 2.

4659810

3. 4.

[X] 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

Jill E. Dolberg/Review and Compliance Coordinator

Nebraska State Historical Society organization

date March 3, 2010

street & number 1420 P Street, Suite 300

telephone (402) 471-4773

city or town Lincoln

Nebraska

zip code 68508

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

Bruce and Stephanie Graham name/title

street & number PO Box 4 telephone

308-762-2949

city or town

Ellsworth

state

Nebraska zip code

69340

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 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.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

District 119 North School

Name of Property

Sheridan County, Nebraska

County and State

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The District 119 North School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for it association with rural education in Nebraska and under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The school retains a high degree of historic integrity. The school served its small community for ten years, from the date of its construction in 1951 to 1961, when the number of students exceeded the building's capacity. According to the guidelines of the multiple property document *Historic and Architectural School Buildings of Nebraska*, it meets all requirements for the National Register of Historic Places for criteria A and C.

History of the District 119 North School

Ellsworth is an unincorporated community in the southern Sand Hills ranching area of the county. It was established on the CB&Q Railroad as an early cattle shipping post for the Spade Ranch in the 1880s. In 1887 there was only a depot, a section house, and the District 119 School, eventually called the District 119 South School, in Ellsworth. In 1898, the owners of the Spade Ranch, Bartlett Richards and William Comstock, headquartered their Nebraska Land and Feeding Company in town, which brought a small increase in population. Nevertheless, the population of Ellsworth peaked in 1910 with a total of thirty inhabitants. Their school served the small number of students in the town, but also area ranch families.

In the summer of 1951, the District 119 North School was built by an elderly carpenter, Torville Erickson, at the Melvin (Bus) Wilson Ranch. The school was constructed from the wood from another school house that had sat approximately two miles away from the Wilson Ranch, and which Bus Wilson had attended with his sisters Arline and Cheryl, Jesse Sandoz and Erma and Ruby Colerick. The small number of children in the north part of the district made finding a permanent location for the school a challenge. Children grow up, and families only have so many children. Bus Wilson decided that the school should be built on skids so that it could be moved near the families it would serve.² The building appears to have been placed in the yard of the family with the most children at the time.

The school had no telephone and no electricity. The east facing windows supplied them with light, which could be supplemented with kerosene lanterns. Teachers would board with a family nearby. The teachers would either travel to the school on horseback or later via automobile. In bad weather, one of the parents would take her halfway to the school in the feed tractor, letting her hike the rest of the way. If weather would prevent the teacher from arriving altogether, the students would merely look out the window to see if she had made it or not, having no telephone.

When the school was located on the Munger Ranch, it was situated with the door facing south. There were two outhouses located north of the building, one for each gender. A short flagpole was located south of the school, a small barn for the teacher's horse at the northwest, and a barbed wire fence surrounding the yard. The fence had a "kid gate" at the southeast corner that consisted of two fence posts about a foot apart which allowed the kids to walk through instead of climbing through or over the barbed wire. There was no playground equipment in the school yard. The children played games like Pum Pum Pull Away, Steal Sticks and Fox and Goose. An old wagon or large electrical spool left over from the REA's electrification projects provided things to play on.³

The six Munger children and the three Wilson children filled the school to capacity until 1961, when two more children were ready for Kindergarten. Not having enough room for ten children and a teacher, a larger school was purchased and

Elton A. Perkey, Perkey's Nebraska Place Names (Lincoln, Nebraska: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1982), 179.

² Jane Wilson, undated reminiscences.

³ Linda Munger, undated reminiscences.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

District 119 North School

Name of Property

Sheridan County, Nebraska

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Section 8 Page

moved to a foundation near the original school. After the bigger school was obtained, the small school was used for a study room, an art room and a place to play when the weather was bad. A few years later, Melvin Wilson had difficulty hiring an accredited teacher, and the families chose to drive their children to Ellsworth to attend school there.⁴

Children who had attended the District 119 North School included: Jerry Munger, Jack Munger, Sharon Munger, Larry Munger, Jim Munger, Linda Munger, LuAnn Munger, Blaine Wilson, Janet Wilson, Janice Wilson, and two Nye sisters, for a total of one dozen students over ten years of operation.⁵

Historical Significance

The District 119 North School is historically significant at the local level under Criterion A. It is an excellent representative example of a pattern of rural education that has persisted through the twentieth century despite many changes in educational policy and reform. Visually, the District 119 North School with its rectangular form, gable roof, and rural setting, immediately conveys the architectural elements of a one-room schoolhouse, regardless of its diminutive size.

Although the building was built in 1951, this school reflects the architecture of much earlier rural schools more than it does schools of the mid-20th century. The District 119 North School is a very good representative of rural school architecture dating from the 1910s to 1930s because, like most rural schools of this era, it was constructed by local residents with available materials. Typical of the "one-room" school, the school was constructed of a size that could accommodate the needs the local students. The school's window placement is like other one-room schools where windows were located on the long side of the building to use the optimum amount of sunlight for better vision and ventilation, while leaving the narrow wall of the building free for the use of chalkboards. The school also features a main entrance centrally located on the south façade. The school's interior design has remained basically the same since one-room schools began appearing on the Nebraska landscape in the nineteenth century.

Under Criterion A, this school best reflects the human geography of the Sandhills rather than the chronological development of school policy in Nebraska. Even with the advent of better roads and school consolidation by the 1950s, the spatial arrangement of Sheridan County's population centers still necessitated schools like District 119 North. Approximately 50 miles separates the Chicago & NorthWestern / U.S. Highway 20 population corridor in northern Sheridan County from the Burlington Northern / State Highway 2 corridor to the south where Ellsworth is located. While a USGS map of Nebraska compiled in 1920-1921 depicts a handful of towns between these two corridors, by 1934 none of these had active post offices. With no nearby communities to serve their needs, elementary students living between the two corridors would have had to travel what were still considered unacceptable distances to attend school in Ellsworth to the south or Gordon to the north. During the 1950s, the District 119 North served as a pragmatic solution to this problem.

Its mobility was a feature that is unique to Sheridan County, and perhaps to the rest of Nebraska. In the sparsely populated Sand Hills, one might build a school on one corner of a section and find that there were no school age children in the area a few mere years later. Building the school on skids would ensure that the building could be moved to a location that would best serve its patrons.

Jane Wilson, undated reminiscences.

Jane Wilson, undated reminiscences.

USGS, "State of Nebraska," compiled 1920-1921, 1939; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 180-183.

No similar schools have been recorded in the Nebraska SHPO's Nebraska Historic Resources Inventory. However, according to local citizens two similar schools did exist in Box Butte County and Scotts Bluff County in Nebraska, but neither is extant.

NPS Form 10-900a (8-86) OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Architectural Significance

According to the Multiple Property Document (MPD) *Historic and Architectural School Buildings of Nebraska*, the building is relatively typical in shape, if not size, relative to the numerous rural school buildings that were built in Nebraska during that era. "Most one-room country schools were constructed with a rectangular plan... Size was often determined by the practical visual and audible distance from the teacher. A series of three or four windows was commonly found on one or both of the long sides of the building. One door was most common, often facing south or east and located on the short side of the building... Simple gable roofs and later hipped roofs were often recommended by plan books."

Criterion Consideration B

Although moved buildings are not generally considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, moved properties may qualify if they are significant primarily for architectural value, or it is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event. While the District 119 North School is architecturally significant as for being a type of construction, architecture is not is primary significance. It could be argued that the building's historical significance is in fact enhanced by the fact that it has been moved, as the building was designed to be mobile as evidenced by its size and skids. Without acknowledging the school's ability to be relocated easily, the school is merely an extremely small rural school, and its ability to adequately serve its spare population in the Sand Hills would be ignored.

Conclusion

The District 119 North School is a good candidate for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significant historical association with education in Nebraska, and specifically in the Sandhills region. It is a small, yet representative example of a rural school, of which Nebraska at one time had over 7,000. It is further significant under Criterion C for its architectural significance. While the rectangular form of the building, with its south-facing door and series of windows under the gable end is the most common form for a rural school, the diminutive size and mobility set this building apart from the majority of rural schools in Nebraska.

⁸ Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska, National Register Multiple Property Submission, Prepared by Mead & Hunt Inc., August, 2000.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bibliography

District 119 North School

Name of Property

Sheridan County, Nebraska

County and State

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Beiber, Sharon Munger. Undated reminiscences.

Glassgow, Gail Hamilton. Undated reminiscences.

"Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska." National Register Multiple Property Submission prepared by Mead & Hunt Inc., August 2000. Accepted by the National Register, winter 2000.

Mead and Hunt, Inc. Sheridan County Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey. Lincoln, Nebraska: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1998.

Munger, Linda. Undated reminiscences.

Perkey, Elton A. Perkey's Nebraska Place Names. Lincoln, Nebraska: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1982.

USGS, "State of Nebraska," compiled 1920-1921, Washington, D.C.: USGS, 1939

Wilson, Jane. Undated reminiscences.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Geographical Data

District 119 North School

Name of Property

Sheridan County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 10 Page

Boundary Description

The nominated property includes only the building (including the stairs and ramp) and the building's footprint. It is located within Lot 4 of Block 3 in Ellsworth, an unincorporated community in Sheridan County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries reflect the mobile nature of this property. District 119 North School was associated with more than one location within the surrounding landscape during its period of significance. Its current location is not historically associated with the school; however, this property does meet the requirements for National Register Criterion Consideration B. In fact, its mobility is a factor contributing to its significance.

OMB No. 1024-0018

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Section

District 119 North School

Name of Property

Sheridan County, Nebraska

County and State

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Photo 1 of 5. West Façade, Aspect: E

Photo 2 of 5. South and East Elevations, Aspect: NW

Photo 3 of 5. Detail of Steel Skid, Aspect: NW

Photo 4 of 5. Interior View, Aspect: W

Photo 5 of 5. Interior View, Aspect: E

All Photographs by Jessie Nunn, Nebraska State Historical Society, 02-26-2009.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY District #119 North School NAME:
MULTIPLE School Buildings in Nebraska MPS NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Sheridan
DATE RECEIVED: 7/15/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/18/10 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/02/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/29/10 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000606
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N
ACCEPTRETURNREJECT 9-30-10 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
Entered in The National Register

Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA	
REVIEWER	DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE	DATE
DOCUMENTATION see attache	ed comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



District 119 North School
Ellsworth, Sheridan County, Mebraska
Photo 1 of 5

Nettro1 #: Stt04-005

NE-ShendanCounty-District 19 NovthSchool-0001



District 119 North School
Ellsworth, Shevidan County, Mebracka
Photo 2075

NeHRSI #: 5H04-005

NE-SheridanCounty-District 19 North School-0002



District 119 North School Ellsworth, Sheridan County, Nebraska Photo 3 of 5

NettRS1 #: SH04-005

NE-SheridauCounty-District 119 North School_ 0003



Ellsworth, Sheridan County, Nebraska Photo 4 of 5 NeHRS1 #: SH04-005 NE-Sheridae County-District 119 North School_0004

District 19 North School



Photo 5 of 5 Nettes1 #: SH04-005 NET_ShevidanCounty-District 19 NorthSchool_ 0005

District 119 North School

Elkworth, Sherdan County, Nebrabska





July 15, 2010

J. Paul Loether National Register—National Historic Landmarks Programs National Park Service 1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor Washington, DC 20005

RE:

District #119 North School

Ellsworth, Sheridan County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above resource. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

L. Robert Puschendorf

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure