

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received **SEP 13 1982**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Sentinel Butte Public School

and/or common Sentinel Butte High School

2. Location

street & number Byron Street (No Number) not for publication

city, town Sentinel Butte vicinity of congressional district 1

state North Dakota code 38 county Golden Valley code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: abandoned

4. Owner of Property

name City of Sentinel Butte

street & number Sentinel Butte City Hall

city, town Sentinel Butte vicinity of state North Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Golden Valley Courthouse

street & number 150 First Avenue Southeast

city, town Beach vicinity of state North Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sentinel Butte Public School is a large two story building composed of two rectangular masses flanking a recessed central entrance and belltower on the front (east) facade. Buff brick corner pilasters, cornice and foundation line contrast handsomely with the red brick of the facades and further emphasize the building configuration. The original 1907 building was comprised of the north and central components of the existing structure and had a similar symmetrical appearance and arrangement of interior space when the original entrance and belltower bisected the south facade of the original building. When the 1913 bay was added to the south facade of the original structure, the belltower was relocated to the east facade of what became the central recessed bay.

Hip roofs shelter each of the flanking masses and are joined by a truncated gable roof over the central portion of the building. The roofline is complicated by a second hip over the recessed bays flanking the belltower. The roof is shingled with asphalt and the boxed eaves are finished with beaded shiplap. A buff brick chimney pierces the southwest corner of the north hip and two metal ventilators flank the belltower on the truncated gable.

The belltower, with its steeply pitched roof and variety of shapes and materials, is the main focus of the front facade. In addition to its function as a belfry, it also houses the front entry and stairwell. A pair of three-panel and four-light doors with tall sidelights (now enclosed with wood) comprise the entry. It is framed in buff brick pilasters and sandstone architrave. Two plain one-over-one windows light the interior half story landing, and above the windows a pressed metal sign reads "Sentinel Butte Public School." Above the sign a red brick roman arch with sandstone key-stone frames a multi-paned semi-circular window with two heavy mullions. This window, although boarded over with plywood, originally provided light to the interior belltower. The belfry proper is open on all four sides, each with a trio of red brick segmented arches on sandstone lintels. Each of the belfry's facades is trimmed with buff brick corner pilasters which visually support a corbeled architrave and dentiled cornice of the same material. The pyramidal roof is shingled in asphalt and is surmounted by a short flagpole at the peak.

Fenestration is regular throughout the building, and all first and second story windows are standard one-over-one wood sash, each resting on buff sandstone lintels. The raised brick foundation is punctuated on all facades by double-paned ground-level windows, most of them temporarily covered with plywood. The rear entrance, located on the central recessed wall of the rear gable is framed in a red brick surround. Iron fire stairs cross the north and south elevations from second story converted windows.

The school interior is generally original to the 1913 period in both material and arrangement of space. The first floor is made up of four large classrooms, two in each of the north and south wings, which open onto the central hall and stairs. The second floor is composed of a large assembly room in the north wing, a classroom in the southeast corner of the south wing, and suite of three rooms (a small library, classroom and superintendent's office) on the southwest corner of the south wing. The basement contains washrooms, the furnace room, a science lab in the southeast corner of the building, a central kitchen and a second classroom in the northeast corner.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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Original hardwood floors, five-panel doors, window surrounds and baseboards remain throughout the building with the exception of the assembly room. Double beaded wainscoting is limited to the north wing classrooms. Cloak halls, located adjacent and just inside the classrooms, are lined with tongue-and-groove wainscoting and a row of brass coat hooks. Similar wainscoting trims both the front and rear stairwells and central hallways. Both stairways have turned balusters and carved newel posts. With the exception of the suite of rooms in the south wing, all the woodwork is painted.

The general assembly room on the second floor of the north wing retains its hardwood floor and five-panel doors, but has been sheathed in modern photograin paneling. The paneling has been attached in two tones "reproducing" the line of the original wainscoting beneath. All rooms had acoustic ceiling tile and fluorescent lighting installed ca. 1960. The basement science lab shows signs of moisture damage both in the peeling of plaster and paint and the deterioration of the brick foundation. Situated on a high water table, the brick walls have acted as a wick. Vandals have broken windows and defaced walls in both the first and second stories.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1907 and 1913 **Builder/Architect** Haxby and Gillespie

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sentinel Butte School is significant in the state as an archetype of schools built in North Dakota at the turn of the century and is important for its integrity of design and material. As the first high school built within the original boundaries of Billings County, Sentinel Butte Public School played a significant role in the development of secondary education in the community as well as a large region of western North Dakota. The relative massiveness of the school and its central location within the town make Sentinel Butte Public School the most visible symbol of early life in that community.

Designed by the Fargo firm of Haxby and Gillespie in 1907, the utilitarian arrangement of a central hall/stairway flanked by classrooms was standard and was repeated by other architects in many larger municipal schoolhouses of the period. Haxby and Gillespie designed several similar edifices in North Dakota, including the Lincoln Building, Carrington, North Dakota, (1908) which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Although a substantial but unknown number of these schools exist within the state, few retain the degree of integrity of the Sentinel Butte School.

The Sentinel Butte School was the first school in old Billings County to offer a high school curriculum. In 1907, when the original school was constructed, Billings County encompassed some one hundred townships. Reorganization of county boundaries diminished the size of Billings County through the formation of Golden Valley and Slope Counties in 1912 and 1915 respectively. Although five similar schools were later built in the three reorganized counties, two have been destroyed, two have been remodeled, and one stands abandoned since 1968.

Sentinel Butte continued to function in its original capacity for sixty-four years until the decline in population and the consolidation of schools forced the school to close in 1971.

The community of Sentinel Butte looks forward to re-using this building as a facility for senior citizens, public meetings and indoor recreation. They have been active in pursuing the assistance of their regional planning council as well as the State Historical Society of North Dakota in the completion of this nomination.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mayor Charles Reed, Sentinel Butte, personal interview, 1980.
Billings County Historical Society, Echoing Trails, Billings County Historical Society, Medora, North Dakota, 1979.
Slope Saga Committee, Slope Saga, Pioneer Print, Bowman, North Dakota, 1976.
50th Anniversary Alumni Book, Sentinel Butte High School, 1966.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Sentinel Butte

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4	5	8	8	4	3	0	5	1	9	6	4	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1-13, Block 5 of the Original Townsite, Sentinel Butte, North Dakota

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jackie Sluss, Historical Assistant

organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date 1981

street & number North Dakota Heritage Center telephone (701) 224-2672

city or town Bismarck state North Dakota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James E. Sherry

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 17, 1982

For HCPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Gaudin
Keeper of the National Register

date 10/21/82

Attest:
Chief of Registration

date