



**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

HALL/auditorium

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

MUSEUM/art gallery

HALL/auditorium

THEATER/playhouse

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Moderne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stone

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheets

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 District School No. 182 (Barnhard School)

---

DESCRIPTION

District School No. 182, commonly known as the Barnhard School, is located in Sverdrup Township, six miles north of Underwood on County Road 35, in rural Otter Tail County. The school building is a 47' x 51' one story structure with split stone walls resting on a raised basement of exposed reinforced concrete. The overall proportions and massing of the Moderne Style building organize the school into two sections, resulting in a T-shaped structure, with each component further defined by a slight difference in the level of the roof line. The north facing principal facade includes a projecting entry to the west with rounded piers flanking the original entrance doors and sidewalls with a series of raised concrete panels. Each door contains a large semi-circular window opening which, when placed together, form a circular design. A panel with the words "Dist. No 182" incised in concrete is placed above the entrance. A bronze plaque stating "Works Projects Administration Project 1940" is anchored to the concrete pier adjacent to the entry. Four double hung sash are placed within the split stone walls on the first story above the entrance. The eastern portion of the north facade also includes a projecting one story section which contains the well house. Both raised and fluted panels decorate the exterior walls. A small semi-circular concrete base supported by a rounded bracket projects from the split stone wall above and supports a flagpole. The base rests on a panel with a geometric design.

The east facade includes six double hung sash spaced along the raised basement while the first story window openings are arranged in two groups of five. An entrance to the lower level is located on the south facade and a stairway with an iron railing descends from the first floor. The west facade is organized into three bays by a central section with a slight recess. The building is completed with a split stone chimney which rises above the building's flat roof line.

The interior includes a community room with a stage, a kitchen, fuel room, boiler room, and storage room, all in the basement, and two classrooms, a library, and an office on the first floor.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 District School No. 182 (Barnhard School)

---

Moderne Style features are also included in the interior such as a number of doorways with a corbelled design.

The Barnhard School was constructed between 1939-40 by the Works Projects Administration, a federal work relief program known as the Works Progress Administration prior to July 1937. The school building closed in 1982 and now serves as a community art center. The building remains in excellent condition and retains original design integrity.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1939

Significant Dates

1939

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Broaten, E.O., architect

Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See Continuation Sheets

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 District School No. 182 (Barnhard School)STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Barnhard School is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C as an intact and well preserved example of education facility, one of the most important and frequently constructed property types built by the federal relief programs of the Depression Era. The Barnhard School is also architecturally significant as a unique adaptation of the Moderne Style which combines standard stylistic elements with finely crafted split stone construction resulting is an architectural expression closely associated with the programmatic requirements of the Works Progress Administration. Although the WPA did not specify architecture styles, a project sponsor was required to furnish all non-labor items, and low cost, locally available materials often made construction economically feasible. Field stone, for example, involved minimal material cost to the sponsor, yet resulted in labor intensive construction which remained consistent with the needs of the relief program. The Barnhard School provided Sverdrup Township with a modern and up to date school building which improved the quality of the educational facilities available to this rural community.

School District 182 of rural Underwood was organized on January 3, 1884. The first school was actually a log house built by John Randall in Section 4 of Sverdrup Township. The school was named after William Barnhard, one of the founders of the district, who lived near the site of the present school. In 1885 the original school was replaced by a one story frame building which was constructed near the present intersection of County Roads 1 and 35. In 1905 this building was moved to another location and a new two story frame structure was erected on the same site. By the late 1930s the school building was becoming rather dilapidated and it was considered a firetrap.

According to a notice in the Improvement Bulletin dated July 27, 1938, a vote was to be held on July 19 in order to secure bonds to finance a new school. An application was subsequently submitted for federal assistance from the Works Projects Administration which described the following project: "Construct school building in the northwest quarter of Section 4, Township

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 District School No. 182 (Barnhard School)

---

33, Range 41, Sverdrup Township, Otter Tail County, and perform work incidental and appurtenant thereto."

The WPA approved the proposal on July 30, 1938 and the project was assigned number O.P. #665-71-2-109. President Roosevelt also formally approved the application on August 17, 1938. The WPA agreed to provide \$12,267 for labor and \$2,560 for non-labor items, while the sponsor, District 182, agreed to pay a total of \$9,973. Work was underway by February 1939 with relief labor employed by the WPA, which would typically complete all aspects of construction. However, apparently due to a shortage of skilled labor, the plumbing, heating, wiring, and millwork for the school were advertised for bid. The following notice was published in the Improvement Bulletin dated April 21, 1939.

"Underwood, Minn - Rural Sch - (\$25,000). In Sverdrup Twp, Otter Tail County. Bids close May 10, 1:30 pm, for plmg, htg, wir and millwork. WPA proj. Bd of Ed, Edwin J. Holm, Clk, route 2, Underwood, taking bids at Rural Dist School No. 182, Otter Tail Co. (Barnhard School). Archt, E.O. Broaten, Fergus Falls. Cert chk 10% of total bid to accompany bid. Plans and specifs on file with Archt. Description: 1 sty and bas, 47 x 51, community rm and stage, fuel rm, boiler rm, kitchen and storage rm in bas, classrms, office and lavs on first flr, stone ext walls."

The Improvement Bulletin of May 19, 1939 listed the following successful bidders: heating, plumbing, and ventilation, Fergus Plumbing and Heating Company, Fergus Falls, \$3,204; wiring, Hintgen-Karst, Fergus Falls, \$520; millwork, Hollerman Manufacturing Company, Melrose, \$1,124. In November 1939 an additional application was submitted to the WPA and an allotment of \$3,658 was approved in order to complete the building.

The Barnhard School was designed by architect E.O. Broaten of Fergus Falls. Broaten was born in Norway, where he had studied architecture, and he came to the United States as a young man. He practiced in Mason City, Iowa before coming to Fergus Falls in 1927. Under the partnership of Broaten and Foss, the firm also designed the following Depression Era buildings:

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3 District School No. 182 (Barnhard School)

---

Ulen - School Auditorium and Gym Addition  
Edgerton - School Building  
Bagley - Clearwater County Courthouse, (PWA)  
Bemidji - High School, (PWA)  
Gary - School Building  
Underwood - High School Auditorium Addition, (WPA)  
Milan - Village Hall, (WPA)

The Barnhard School meets the registration requirements for listing Education Facilities on the National Register of Historic Places as set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled, "Minnesota Federal Relief Construction, 1933-41." The Barnhard School was constructed between 1939-40 with assistance from the Works Projects Administration. The building represents an outstanding example of a unique architectural expression resulting from the use of native building materials, which is closely associated with federal relief construction of the Depression Era.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Improvement Bulletin. July 27, 1938-August 4, 1939. Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Otter Tail County Historical Society. Works progress Administration Microfilm Roll Number 7. Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 2.5 acres

UTM References

A 

1	5
---	---

2	7	9	8	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	1	3	8	7	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the Northwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of Section Four (4), Township One Hundred Thirty-three (133), Range Forty-one (41); thence due East 372.1 feet; thence South 299.3 feet; thence West 372.1 feet; thence North 299.3 feet to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel of land that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Rolf T. Anderson  
organization N/A date October 9, 1990  
street & number 212 West 36th Street telephone 612-824-7807  
city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota zip code 55408