

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

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

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

1. Name

historic Saum Public School

and/or common Saum Schools/Saum Consolidated School District #81

2. Location

street & number County Highway 23 not for publication

city, town Woodrow Township (Saum) ~~Kelliher~~ vicinity of congressional district 7th

state Minnesota code 22 county Beltrami code 007

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

4. Owner of Property

name Beltrami County Historical Society

street & number Box 683

city, town Bemidji vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Beltrami County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Bemidji state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Historic Sites Survey - 1970

title Minnesota Resource Potentials in State has this property been determined eligible? yes no

Outdoor Recreation: Project 80

date July 1971 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site 1912 building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		1903 building

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Saum Schools are situated on a wooded four-acre tract of land one half mile west of Saum; they are accessible from Range Line Road #23. Both buildings are owned by the Beltrami County Historical Society which maintains them with the aid of the Saum Community Club.

The Log School is the oldest of the two buildings. It was constructed in 1903. It is a simple gabled structure with a single door on one gable end, solid wall on the other gable end, and three windows on each side. Corners are joined by saddle-notching on the interior, the school consists of one room. Walls are not plastered and show the round log-and-chinking construction. The Log School was originally built on the west side of Range Line Road #23. It was moved to the east side of the road to a location immediately north of the Consolidated School building and restored in 1958. Restoration was made possible with funds from the County Centennial Committee; the building was then given to the Beltrami County Historical Society. Care has been taken to restore both the exterior and interior to an accurate representation of the original appearance. Among the period furnishings within the school building are teacher's and students' desks, books, maps, a hanging globe, wall-hung reflector-type kerosene lamps, and a wood-burning stove from the Battle River School (a building of the same vintage).

The Consolidated School is a two story frame building erected in 1912. It is essentially rectangular in plan with a slight projection on the principal facade to allow for an entrance vestibule and cloak rooms. The building is virtually devoid of decorative architectural treatments. Exceptions are a centrally positioned fanlighted dormer which projects from the hipped roof and a basket-weave design band in the frieze above the double entry doors. The interior is essentially unaltered with the exception of converting the library into a kitchen to provide services for community events. One of the class rooms has been retained in the appearance as it existed at the time the school closed in 1960. The remainder of the building serves as a community center.

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 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 1903, 1912 **Builder/Architect** 1903 - Jens Wolden
 1912 - L.O. Larson & John Kilgren

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Saum Schools present an excellent picture of the evolution and development of educational facilities in northern Minnesota during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Further, the second building to be erected on this site pioneered in becoming the first consolidated school to be constructed for that purpose in Minnesota.

The Log School, erected in 1903, is representative of the manner in which early settlers met the needs for educational facilities. Comprised of one room and a limited number of furnishings, this building served the children of the immediate vicinity around the Saum community. It continued to function as a school until 1912 after which it became a teacher's residence. In 1958 it was restored for use as a museum.

The Consolidated School, erected in 1912, marked the first attempt in Minnesota to combine the educational needs of three communities into one facility. Each of these communities (Foy, Battle River, and Saum) had previously been served by one-room log buildings. Although these three communities were populated mostly by persons who had been in the United States no more than ten years, they had considered improving educational services even prior to the establishment of the Consolidation Act of 1911. When the Act became law, they were the first in Minnesota to apply for funds for the construction of a new building.

PLEASE NOTE: the manuscript for this nomination was prepared before the one paragraph limit for significance statements was stipulated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Folwell, William Watts, History of Minnesota, Vol. IV, p. 168.
 Records, Beltrami County Historical Society.
 Bemidji Daily Pioneer, Oct. 28, 1961.
 Dolgaard, Sam, "Reminiscences", Beltrami County Historical Society Collections, 1:137 (1953)

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 2.25 **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle name Saum Quad Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A	1 5	3 7 4 9 4 0	5 3 1 4 8 5 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification That part of Lot 1, S19, T152, R31 and Lot 4, S18, T152, R31 Described as follows: Beginning at the SW corner of Section 18, T152, R31; thence north 330 feet; thence east 222 feet; thence south 437 feet; thence west 222 feet; thence north 107 feet to point of beginning.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian
 organization Minnesota Historical Society - SHPO date October 1979
 street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House telephone (612) 296-9073
 city or town _____ state _____

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 Russell W. Fridley
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1-24-80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>W. Ray Luce</u>	date <u>3/27/80</u>
for Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Kristin O'Connell</u>	date <u>3/14/80</u>
Chief of Registration	