

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 9 1986

date entered MAY 8 1986

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

1. Name

historic North Canton School, District #12

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number NW Section 11, T73. R118

N/A not for publication

city, town Seneca XXX vicinity of

state South Dakota code 26 county Potter code 107

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A 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"/> other: VACANT

4. Owner of Property

name Maybelle A. Bottomley and The State of South Dakota
School and Public Lands

street & number 10848 Upton Avenue South 500 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

city, town Bloomington, MN N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Potter County Courthouse

street & number 201 South Exene Street

city, town Gettysburg state SD

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on the flat treeless prairie, the North Canton School in Potter County is a one-room, rectangular frame dwelling with a wood shingled gable roof, a concrete chimney, and a vestibule (the cloakroom) off the east gable end (entrance side). Fenestration includes four large rectangular windows with surrounds on the south facade and two large rectangular windows with surrounds on the west facade.

As one enters the building, the original coal bin (later used as a toilet) is located off to the left. A door leads to the classroom which displays a 12' ceiling and the original wainscotting and door and window surrounds. Beneath the linoleum covering is the original wood floor. An old heating furnace is still intact. However, the original slate chalkboard and classroom furniture has long been removed.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1889 **Builder/Architect** Not Available

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1889 and used as an educational facility until 1972, the North Canton School in Potter County is significant in the area of education. This small, one-room school retains most of its original architectural features and visually evokes the image of the quintessential country school on the South Dakota prairie.

General William Henry Harrison Beadle was a leading figure in the early development of South Dakota's educational system. He was credited as being "the father of education in the two Dakotas, the man who saved the endowment and school lands

in these states and the originator of the plan that Congress applied to many other states that have since been admitted into the Union." (1) By 1916, there were 5,041 one-teacher rural schools in South Dakota but due to a declining population and consolidation with larger schools, this number dwindled to 80 by 1986. (2) Hence, the North Canton School represents the one-room rural school that is a vanishing landmark in South Dakota.

The North Canton School, like most of the rural schools constructed in South Dakota before 1915, was a one-room rectangular, gable-roofed building. This type of rural schoolhouse had developed out east around 1840 and was derived from nave-plan rectangular churches. The windows were located on only the south (four openings) and west (2 openings) facades because of the belief that "cross-lighting" (-light coming from more than one direction-) was confusing and injurious to the eye. (3) During the 1950's, the school was lifted and moved one-fourth of a turn to be placed on a new foundation. However, the school appears much as it did when it was built in 1889 - the year South Dakota became a state. Its frame siding, wood shingles, concrete chimney, frame window surrounds, and interior wainscotting are all intact.

E.R. Davidson was the North Canton School's first teacher. (4) Many teachers came and went, but for 83 years, the school served the educational needs of the area. Closed as a school in 1972, the building lay vacant until it was sold in 1983 to Maybelle Bottomley who attended the school for eight years and later taught in the building. She recently compiled a manuscript describing memories of the school through the eyes of former students and teachers like herself. (5)

9. Major Bibliographical References

- See Continuation Sheet -

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less Than One Acre

Quadrangle name Seneca

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	4	4	5	1	7	8	0	4	9	8	9	1	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

The boundaries extend 50 feet from the north, south, east and west facades of the school which is located in the NW Section of the NW Section of 11, Township 73, Range 118.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maybelle A. Bottomley (Technical Assistance: Melanie Betz, State Historical Preservation Center, Vermillion, SD)

organization N/A date February 18, 1986

street & number 10848 Upton Avenue South telephone 612/881-2312

city or town Bloomington state Minnesota

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title Director Office of History date 4/2/87

For NPS use only

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

[Signature] National Register date 5/8/86

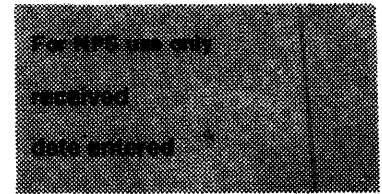
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet

North Canton School

Item number 8

Page 1

1

History of South Dakota: Its History and Its People, Volume IV.
George Martin Smith, editor, Chicago, The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co.,
1915, pg. 193.

2

Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier, Dorothy Rankin,
Editor and Layout Artis, Silt, Colorado, 1981, pg. 6, 10. Also, South Dakota
Dept. of Education statistics, 1986.

3

Manuscript on the Architecture of South Dakota by David Erpestad
and David Wood, 1986, pg. 4.

4

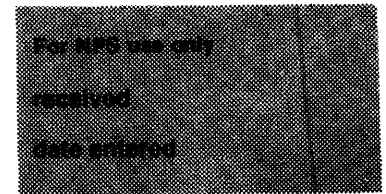
Teacher's Report, 1889. From the Office of the Treasurer, Potter, SD.

5

Manuscript on the North Canton School, Potter County, by Maybelle
Bottomley, 1984.

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Inventory—Nomination Form

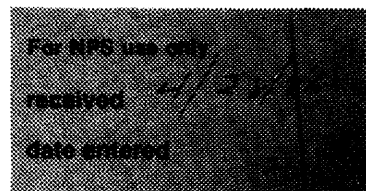


Continuation sheet North Canton School Item number 9 Page 1

- Beadle, William Henry Harrison. Autobiography. State Historical Society, Pierre, SD, 1906 (1938 ed.)
- Bottomley, Maybelle. Manuscript on the North Canton School, Potter County, 1984.
- Coursey, O.W. A Complete Biographical Sketch of General William Henry Harrison Beadle. The Educator Supply Co., Mitchell, SD, 1916.
- Erpestad, David, and Wood, David. Manuscript on the "Architecture of South Dakota," 1984.
- Rankin, Dorothy, Editor and Layout Artist, Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier. Silt, Colorado, 1981.
- Register of Deeds Records.
- Smith, George Martin. History of South Dakota: Its History and Its People. Volume IV, Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1915.
- Teacher's Report, 1889. From the Office of the Treasurer, Potter County, Gettysburg, SD.

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Continuation sheet Geographical Data

Item number 10

Page 1

NORTH CANTON SCHOOL

Acreage of nominated property: two acres

Quadrangle name: Seneca

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

UTM references: 14/451780/4989150

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Boundaries of the North Canton School are contained within the legal description:

"Commencing at the Northwest Corner of the North West Quarter of Section Eleven (11) Township One Hundred Eighteen (118) North, Range Seventy Three (73) West 5th P.M.; thence running South along the Section Line 16 rods; thence East at right angles 20 rods; thence North at right angles 16 rods to the Section Line; thence West along the Section Line 20 rods to the point of beginning. Said tract of land containing two acres according to the plat on file and of record in the office of the Commissioner of School and Public Lands"