

832

JUN 12 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS FORM 10-900 (Rev. 8-86) OMB No. 1024-0018 [SD-SHPO # ECA-OH-597-1/89] [use paper with at least 25% cotton rag content, use NLQ or LQ printer]

United States Department of the Interior -- National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES -- REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering "NA" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Harding Schoolhouse
other name/ site number: NA

2. Location

street & number: 5 miles west & 5.5 miles north of Trail City /NA/ not for publication
city, town: Trail City /XX/ vicinity
state: SOUTH DAKOTA code: SD county: Corson code: SD 031 zip code: 57657

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property:		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
/XX/ private	/XX/ building(s)	2		buildings
/ / public-local	/ / district			sites
/ / public-state	/ / site			structures
/ / public-federal	/ / structure			objects
	/ / object	2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

11. Form Prepared by

name/title: Jim Nelson, Pres. (w/technical assistance by Rolene Jungemann, SHPO contr.)
organization: Timber Lake & Area Historical Society date: March 3, 1989
street & number: P. O. Box 10 telephone: 605-865-3546
city or town: Timber Lake state: SOUTH DAKOTA zip code: 57656

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property name

, Corson
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA
state

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this / / nomination / / request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property / / meets / / does not meet the National Register criteria. / / See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Signature of certifying official 4/1/89 Date

SHPO S. A. Dahl State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property / /meets / / does not meet the National Register Criteria. / / See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- ____ see continuation sheet
- ____ determined eligible for the National Register
- ____ see continuation sheet
- ____ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ____ removed from the National Register
- ____ other, (explain) _____

Albion Byers Entered in the National Register 7/13/89

Signature of the Keeper Date

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property name

, Corson
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA
state

6. Function or Use (enter categories from instructions)

Historic functions:
EDUCATION/school

Current Functions:
RECREATION & CULTURE/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
(enter categories from instructions)
OTHER: rectangular pen plan schoolhouse

Materials:
(enter categories from instructions)
foundation Concrete
walls Wood

roof Asphalt
other NA

Describe present and historic physical appearance: /XX/ see continuation sheet

8. Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in
relation to other properties: / / / / /XX/
nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria /XX/ A / /B / /C / /D

Criteria Considerations / /A / /B / /C / /D / /E / /F / /G

Areas of Significance (enter from instructions)
Education

Period of Significance
1931-1939

Significant Dates
NA

Significant Person
NA

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Architect/Builder
O'Leary, Pat

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations,
and periods of significance noted above /XX/ see continuation sheet

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, Corson
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA
state

9. Major Bibliographical References

/XX/ see continuation sheet

Previous documentation by 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- /XX/ State historic preservation office**
- / / Other State agency
- / / Federal agency
- / / Local government
- / / University
- / / Other

Specify repository:

South Dakota Historical Preservation Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: one acre

UTM References:

A = /14	/356-940/	/5045-760/	B = / /	/ /	/ /
C = / /	/ /	/ /	D = / /	/ /	/ /
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

Quad: Little Eagle S.E.

Scale: 1:24000

/ / see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description:

/XX/ see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification:

/XX/ see continuation sheet

United State Department of the Interior
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The Harding Schoolhouse is situated in the treeless open prairie of Corson County. It is located five miles west and five and one-half miles north of Trail City. The property consists of the schoolhouse and a combination coalshed/outhouse contained within the school yard. Approached from the north, the school yard is bounded on the west by the driveway.

Schoolhouse. Constructed in 1931, the building represents a very late example of a one-story rectangular pen plan school. The building consists of two rooms: a main classroom and smaller cloakroom. Overall dimensions of the building are 16 feet by 30 feet. A replacement concrete foundation was installed as part of the school's restoration in 1988. Wall construction is of a wood balloon frame covered with lapped siding, painted in the original white color. A gable roof covered with asphalt shingles caps the building. The heating system in the schoolhouse consists of a coal-burning stove and brick chimney, which is located on the east gable-end wall.

The only exterior door is located on the south axial wall of the cloakroom. A single interior door connects the cloakroom and the main classroom. Five southern-exposure windows provide light to the classroom, and one smaller window on the west facade lights the the cloakroom.

Interior features include original blackboards, wainscoting, wooden coat pegs, and the coal-burning stove. The restoration work included less permanent features such as a water crock, lunch pails marked with former students' names, and original textbooks.

A well, with a cast iron hand pump, is located approximately three feet from the west facade. To the south of the building is a metal flagpole. It has been painted white and sports a gold ball at the top.

Coalshed/Outhouse. The rectangular coalshed/outhouse (contributing) is located directly east of the schoolhouse. Resting on an original concrete foundation, the building is of wood frame construction, covered with weatherboard, and capped by a gable roof. Over the years, several coats of white paint and new asphalt shingles have been added to the building. Three doors are located on the south axial wall, with the central door used for access to the coal storage area. A small triangular-shaped vent is located on the west wall near the gable.

Restoration of the property in 1975-1976 was done under the supervision of the late Bertha (Mrs. Henry) Bieber, in time for the Nation's Bicentennial. The project included maintenance, repair, refurnishing, reshingling and painting. Further repair took place in 1988.

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Under Criterion A of the National Register Criteria, the Harding Schoolhouse is significant in the area of education, because it is one of the last vestiges of rural education in Corson County. A late example of the one-story, rectangular pen plan school, it is the only building of its kind in Dewey and Corson counties to survive in its original form at its original location. The property is in an extremely well-preserved condition. Under the South Dakota State Historical Preservation Plan, the property relates to the historic context labeled: IV. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement, E. Government-Related Activities (schools).

Dakota Territory was organized in 1861. Division and statehood for North and South Dakota followed in 1889. The Standing Rock Agency, founded in 1869 is located in what is now extreme north central South Dakota and south central North Dakota. This agency officially became a reservation in 1889 when the boundaries of the new states were determined. In 1909 a major land cession opened thousands of acres on the Standing Rock and neighboring Cheyenne River reservations to white settlement. In a short time approximately 10,000 claims were filed on this land. The influx of homesteaders resulted in the founding of Corson County on June 13, 1909. Six years later in 1915, more of the Standing Rock Reservation was opened for white settlement. This time 6,000 homesteads were claimed on approximately 100,000 acres of land.

South-central Corson County, in which Harding School is located, is under the jurisdiction of the McLaughlin School District. The city of McLaughlin is located 18 miles north of the Harding Schoolhouse. To ease the problem of students traveling the distance to McLaughlin, four new school houses were built between 1925 and 1931. According to one source, the Hoffart, Reinbold, Fisher, and Harding schools were built five miles apart giving no child more than two-and-one-half miles to travel to school. This situation is not apparent on current Corson County maps because the Hoffart, Reinbold, and Fisher schools have been relocated.

Henry Bieber, Sr. gave the Corson County Board of Education one acre of land for the Harding School. Pat O'Leary contracted to be the carpenter for the project. Constructed in 1931 at a cost of \$850.00, the Harding Schoolhouse was the last of the four to be completed. This cost included installation of the stove and blackboards and construction of the coalshed/outhouse. The schoolhouse was named for the 29th U. S. President, Warren G. Harding. One source indicates that a barn was erected shortly after the construction of the schoolhouse. No evidence of the barn remains today. Another feature, which has disappeared, was a sandbox installed in the school yard for the younger children.

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Teachers at the school closely observed the state "Course of Study" approved for elementary education. Students' progress was measured by uniform state tests administered on a regular basis. The daily curriculum included reading, writing, arithmetic, English, spelling, and a short period for music. Science, civics, history, and geography were taught every other day. Friday afternoons were typically reserved for art. A teacher's routine included stoking a fire in the stove each morning. Besides their educational duties, they also served as a janitor for the tiny school building. Each of the families whose children attended the school took turns bringing in water.

In addition to usual elementary course work, many other scholastic and community activities took place at the Harding Schoolhouse. Among the formal student organizations were the Junior Red Cross, Young Citizens League (Y.C.L.), and the local Easter Seals Association. Less formal activities remembered by former students are: spelling bees, school-yard games, recreational contests. Holiday programs, picnics, and other gatherings were enjoyed by teachers, students, and their families.

In 1953, the school closed its doors after 22 years of educational and community service. The late Bertha Bieber wrote, "with the closing of the rural school, we lost our community communication"

A small group of community volunteers including members of the Bieber family currently maintains the property. It is frequently used as a gathering place for reunions and picnics. The building serves as a small community museum and remains open to everyone interested in seeing the restored, very well-maintained country schoolhouse.

The period of significance of the nominated property extends from its date of construction in 1931 to 1939, the established 50-year cut-off date for the National Register.

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Chapin, W. L. "Pioneer Resident Writes County History." in McIntosh Watauga, SD: Diamond Jubilee 1908-1983. N.p.: Diamond Jubilee Committee, 1983. pp.3-4.

Cudmore, Ginny, and Jim Nelson, eds. Timber Lake and Area 1910-1985. N.p.: Timber Lake and Area Historical Society, 1984. Passim.

Bieber, Bertha, comp. "School Storybook," Ms., 1981. (copy on file at State Historical Preservation Center).

"Harding School Will Host Reunion on Sunday, July 10." Timber Lake and Area Historical Society Newsletter VI (n. 2, July 1988): not paginated.

Personal interview of Dr. Herbert T. Hoover (Professor of History, University of South Dakota) by Rolene Jungemann at Vermillion, SD, 24 February 1989.

Schell, Herbert S. History of South Dakota. 3rd ed., rev.: Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1975. Passim.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is bounded by a set of imaginary lines that intersect to form a rectangle. The northern boundary lies 30 meters from the north wall of the school and is parallel to that wall. The eastern boundary lies 41 meters from the east wall of the school and is parallel to that wall. The southern boundary lies 35 meters from the south wall of the school and is parallel to that wall. The western boundary lies 20 meters from the west wall of the school and is parallel to that wall. The property is located in the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 5, Township 18 North, Range 27 East, Black Hills Principal Meridian, in Corson County, South Dakota.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated property are set to include all features of the original school yard, including the schoolhouse, coalshed/outhouse, flagpole and well, and the private driveway. They specifically exclude any pasture or farm land and public roadways not part of the original school yard. The property is situated within a one-acre square of land, each edge of which is marked by a distinctive visual boundary.

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PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

1.

Harding Schoolhouse
Trail City Vicinity, Corson County, South Dakota
Taken by Carolyn Torma
October 1988
Neg: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
South facade, camera facing north
Photograph # 1

2.

Harding Schoolhouse
Trail City Vicinity, Corson County, South Dakota
Taken by Carolyn Torma
October 1988
Neg: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Coalshed/outhouse and schoolhouse, north and west facades,
camera facing southwest
Photograph # 2

3.

Harding Schoolhouse
Trail City Vicinity, Corson County South Dakota
Taken by Carolyn Torma
October 1988
Neg: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Coalshed/outhouse, west and south facades, camera facing northeast
Photograph # 3

4.

Harding Schoolhouse
Trail City Vicinity, Corson County, South Dakota
Taken by Carolyn Torma
October 1988
Neg: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Schoolhouse interior, camera facing northeast
Photograph # 4

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5.
Harding Schoolhouse
Trail City Vicinity, Corson County, South Dakota
Taken by Carolyn Torma
October 1988
Neg: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Schoolhouse interior, camera facing west
Photograph # 5