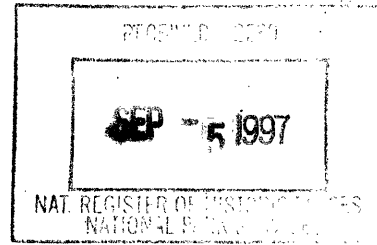


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Beulah School  
other names/site number Beulah High School, Beulah Middle School; 32ME1663

**2. Location**

street & number 210 1st St. NW; 205 2nd St. NW (new 911 address) N/A  not for publication  
city or town Beulah  vicinity  
state North Dakota code ND county Mercer code 057 zip code 58523

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title James E. Sperry 8/29/1997  
James E. Sperry Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

9/30/97

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	2	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

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

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
EDUCATION: school  
LANDSCAPE

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
VACANT

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Prairie School  
International Style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation CONCRETE  
walls BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other CONCRETE

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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  
# \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

MetroPlains Development & Mercer County His. Society

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- EDUCATION
- LANDSCAPE
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1920-49  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1920, 1930, 1933-36  
and 1949  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Keith, Frederick Walcott  
Herman Leonard

Beulah School  
Name of Property

Mercer ND  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.68 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	14	2897000	5238140	3		
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4		
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet.

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha H. Frey with assistance by James P. Wilson  
organization Historic Preservation Consultant date August 21, 1997  
street & number 2445 34th Avenue S telephone (612)729-3407  
city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55406

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name MDI Limited Partnership #57  
street & number 1600 University Avenue, Suite 212 telephone (612)646-7848  
city or town St. Paul state MN zip code 55104

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Beulah School

Mercer County, North Dakota

**7. Description**

The Beulah School is located on block #16 one block north of downtown Beulah in Mercer County, North Dakota. The school block is bounded on the south by First Street, to the north by 2nd Street, to the east by 2nd Avenue and to the west by 1st Avenue (Figure 1). Located on a hillside above the downtown, the school is visible from various points in the community, thus making it a prominent landmark. The front facade of the building faces south and overlooks Beulah's downtown.

The Beulah School is a two-story brick building with a raised basement. The original school was constructed between 1919-20 and was designed in the Prairie School style. This school, which measured 47'5" X 74'6" and provided approximately 11,250 square feet of useable floor space, was the first brick building constructed in Beulah.<sup>1</sup> Later additions were made to the school in 1930, 1949, and 1953. A large gymnasium addition was constructed in 1953 to the east of the original school.

The 1920 school has a rectangular plan and is constructed of rough-faced reddish brown brick in a running bond pattern. This building has a low-pitched hip roof with wide overhanging eaves which give the building a horizontal emphasis that exemplifies the Prairie School style. The south, front facade of the 1920 section has four bays divided by brick pilasters. The first bay contains the main entrance to the school. This entrance, which is offset between the raised basement and first floor, is flanked by brick pilasters that terminate under the first floor windows. The tops of the entrance pilasters are treated with a concrete cap sill. A cast concrete hood extends out from the pilasters above the double aluminum frame entrance doors. These aluminum frame doors as well as the entrance's side lights and fixed transoms appear to have been installed within the last 25 years. Graduated concrete steps lead to the entrance. Above the entrance are three original window openings that once housed six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows. These window openings are now infilled with insulated panels surmounted by small awning windows. The window openings are offset, like the entrance, and are situated between the first and second floor. At the second floor there are three smaller window openings that, like the larger first floor windows, have been infilled with insulated panels and awning windows. The second floor windows openings remain unchanged. Decorative brackets, which have been removed, were once present at the eaves of this bay.

The second and third bays have three windows at the basement, first and second floor levels; the fourth bay has single windows at each level. Directly beneath the first floor windows and extending from the second to the fourth bay is a concrete sill course. The window openings in these bays once housed six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows. The basement windows have been replaced with fixed glass and insulating panels with an occasional small awning sash. The first and second floor windows have been replaced with a small awning window surmounted by two fixed windows and an insulated panel (Photograph 4). Although the original

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Beulah School

Mercer County, North Dakota

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windows have been replaced, all window openings remain intact. Beneath the second floor windows and between the pilasters are brick panels surrounded by stretcher bricks. The pilasters, brick panels and main entrance all lack any classical ornamentation and embody the Prairie School style's emphasis on geometric forms.

The rear, north facade of the 1920 school has a one-story concrete block addition across the facade. This addition appears to have been used as a service entrance and heat plant. Above the addition the facade is divided into three bays. Like the south facade, these bays are divided by brick pilasters. The left, first bay has one window at the first and second floor levels. These windows retain their original openings, and like those of the south facade, have been infilled with an awning window surmounted by two fixed windows and an insulated panel. All windows on this facade have been treated in the same way. It appears that this facade originally had six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows. The second bay has three windows at the first and second floors. The third bay has a prominent square brick smokestack that extends above the roof line. To the right of the smokestack is one window at the first floor level and two windows at the second floor level.

Historic views of the 1920 school's west and east facades show blond brick walls. It appears that only fire escapes, several fire doors and a few windows were present on these facades. Given the stark and unfinished appearance of these facades it appears that they were viewed as temporary and were intended to be added on to at a later date. The east facade maintains its original appearance and had been modified with an unobtrusive one-story brick addition that leads to the 1953 gymnasium. The original west facade, which is not visible, is obscured by the 1930 addition.

The 1930 addition, which measures roughly 50' X 70' and has approximately 11,250 square feet of floor space, clearly duplicates the original Prairie School style architecture of the 1920 school. Special care was given to unite the 1920 school and this addition. The south wall of the 1920 school and its 1930 addition are continuous with only a slight difference in brick color. Likewise the Prairie School-inspired hip roof of the 1920 school was extended across the 1930 addition, thus creating a strong physical and stylistic connection between the original building and the addition. The north, rear facades of the 1920 school and its 1930 addition have offset hip roofs and wall planes. Both the north and south facades of this addition are divided by brick pilasters into four bays. The first and fourth bays have single windows at the basement, first and second floors; the second and third bays have three windows at each level. Like the 1920 school, the 1930 addition once had six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows. These windows have been replaced with the same window treatment as the 1920 school. Off the west facade of this addition is the 1949 addition.

Like the 1920 school and its 1930 addition, the 1949 addition is two stories with a raised basement and constructed of brick in a running bond pattern. It measures 47'6" X 56' and added approximately 6,800 square feet of useable space to the building. Its architecture departs from the Prairie School style and references the

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Beulah School

Mercer County, North Dakota

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wood sash windows. These windows have been replaced with the same window treatment as the 1920 school. Off the west facade of this addition is the 1949 addition.

Like the 1920 school and its 1930 addition, the 1949 addition is two stories with a raised basement and constructed of brick in a running bond pattern. It measures 47'6" X 56' and added approximately 6,800 square feet of useable space to the building. Its architecture departs from the Prairie School style and references the International style through its cubic massing, flat roof, ribbon windows, and lack of ornamentation. The first floor had metal, factory sash ribbon windows on the south facade and singular factory sash windows on the west facade. The second floor of this section of the building was constructed in 1953. This floor originally had glass block windows on the west facade; the south facade had a ribbon window that had glass block in the upper half and what appears to be a operable metal awning windows in the lower half. Most windows in this addition have been infilled with insulated panels or a combination of insulated panels surmounted by two small sliding windows. This window treatment appears to have been completed in the 1970s as an energy saving measure.

The 1949 addition had an overhead garage door present on the west facade, at the basement level. The overhead door, which once lead into the school industrial arts shop, has been removed and infilled with wood siding and a smaller entry door; the opening for the original door is still evident. To the left of the shop entrance is the original entrance to this addition which remains intact with the minor change of a new entrance door.

The 1953 gymnasium to the east of the 1920 school is a non-contributing addition and falls outside the period of significance for the school (1920-1949). This addition is connected to the 1920 school via a small, one story brick passageway. The passageway does not significantly detract from the 1920 school and could be removed in the future.

A significant and unique landscape feature surrounding the school is the stone rip rapping along the block's perimeter. This rip rapping was initiated through the use of Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) funds in 1933-34 and later complete with Works Progress Administration (WPA) fund in 1935-36.<sup>2</sup> The rip rapping is constructed of local field stones set in concrete and soil. The rip rapping or retaining wall along southern half of the block is in good condition and is approximately 20' high up the sloped site. Centered on the south slope is a concrete stairway that was constructed at the same time as the wall. The rip rapping along the northern half of the block is approximately 4' feet high and in poor condition, however, still intact enough to indicate the original landscaping. In addition to the rip rapping, the site has two major terraces. The school, a playground to its south and a driveway (service entrance) along the backside of the school are sited in the south terrace. North of the driveway there is a grade change of approximately 4' where more rip rapping acts as a transition element to the north terrace. This terrace appears to have been created as part of the rip rapping project.<sup>3</sup> The north terrace is paved with asphalt and appears to have been used as a playground and parking lot.

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Photographs 1-9 show exterior views of the school and site.

The interior of the 1920 school is arranged around a double-loaded corridor. This design feature, with its central hallway extends from the 1920 school through the 1930 and 1949 additions, successfully connecting the additions and thus creating a unified school plan (Photographs 17, 19, 20). The 1920 school section retains much of its interior features. The floors at the basement and first floor levels are reinforced concrete; the second floor has a tongue-and-groove maple floor. Extending from the basement to the first floor is a steel staircase with a steel balustrade with Prairie School-influenced newel posts (Photograph 15). From the first to the second floor, however, the stairway and balustrade are wood. A small wood stairway extends from the second floor up a half story to a small room that is above the stairwell (Photograph 18); this room was once used as the superintendent's office. Another stairway, which is located on the east side of the 1920 school and extends from the basement to the first floor, was introduced in 1953 and served to connect the old school with the new 1953 gymnasium (Photograph 12).<sup>4</sup> An assembly room, that was once located on the second floor, was changed to two classroom. All the classroom in the this section of the school retain their storage cupboards. These cupboards, which are grouped in fours, have oak overhead doors (Photographs 10 and 13). Most of the rooms retain their original door and window trim.

Like the 1920 school, the 1930 section retains much of its historic interior fabric. The window and door trim is similar to the 1920 school. The first and second floors retain their wood floors. Most of the classrooms in the 1930 section of the school have original coat closets with pocket doors (Photograph 16). Most rooms also retain their blackboards and/or blackboard trim and chalk trays.

The raised basement of the 1930 addition once housed the school gym. This space was divided into two large rooms in 1953 when the new gymnasium was completed. The two rooms were used as a music room and the school cafeteria.<sup>5</sup>

The interior of the 1949 addition is very sparse with no ornamentation. A steel stairway is located at the west end of this section and extends from the raised basement to the second floor. The raised basement appears to have had two large class rooms; the room south of the center hall was originally used as the shop and the room north of the hallway was used for home economics. In recent years the shop, which is 3' lower than the rest of the basement, was converted to a computer lab and the home economics room to a library. Two small offices are located in the northwest corner of the basement off the library. The first floor has lockers on the south wall with a water fountain niche. This floor has two large classrooms; one north and another south of the hallway. A bathroom is located in the southeast corner of this addition. Two small administrative offices are located in the northwest corner of this floor. This floor has linoleum flooring throughout. The second floor, which was added to this section in 1953, has a floor plate that is approximately 3' lower than the 1930 section. Steps lead from



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the 1953 second floor to the 1930 addition (Photograph 21). This floor has four classrooms.

The 1949 section reflects the historic growth and development of the school. This addition is architecturally different, however, compatible architectural features have successfully united the 1930 and 1949 additions through the use of a brick exterior and the double loaded corridor plan. Therefore, the 1949 section is considered a contributing addition to the school.<sup>6</sup>

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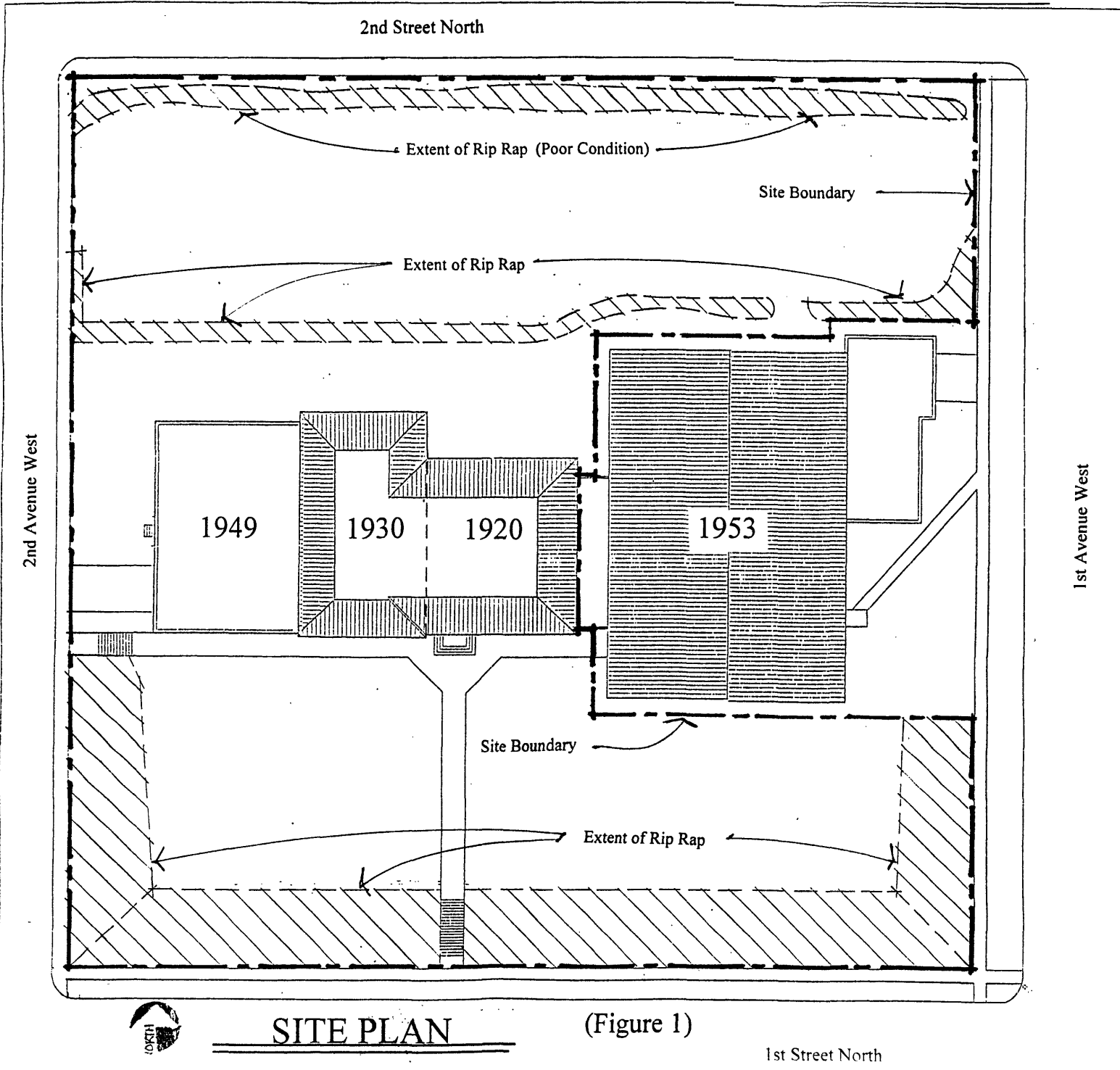
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**SITE PLAN**

(Figure 1)

1st Street North

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**8. Statement of Significance**

The Beulah School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as the only Prairie School style building in Beulah and for its International style architecture.<sup>7</sup> The school is eligible under National Register Criterion A in the area of education as an important building associated with the growth and development of Beulah and the need to provide adequate educational opportunities for its residents. Lastly, the rip rapping and terracing present at the school site is eligible under Criterion A in the area of landscape architecture as an important Federal relief project for Beulah.

Historical background and significance:

Beulah, North Dakota is located in Mercer County in the west central region of the state approximately sixty miles northwest of Bismarck, the state's capitol. Mercer County was settled during the period between 1898 to 1915. This time frame, which was North Dakota's second settlement period, saw the expansion of the Northern Pacific Railroad lines which lead to the establishment and rapid growth of various railroad towns in Mercer County, including Beulah, Hazen, Zap and Golden Valley. The Northern Pacific Railroad worked in conjunction with the Tuttle Land Company who purchased town sites along the railroad corridor.<sup>8</sup> When the Beulah town site was purchased in 1914, it was known as Troy. However it was quickly renamed Beulah after the niece of Tuttle Land Company employee L. C. Pettibone.

By 1915 Beulah had a population of 300 people. The community was developing at a steady pace with 30 new businesses or residences that had been built or were under construction. The small community boasted three grain elevators, two hardware stores and four mercantile stores. Critical to the Beulah's development was the railroad that brought it into existence and which served as a lifeline for the community, providing the only significant transportation network to convey the mail, goods, and passengers to and from Beulah. Early settlers to the area were primarily German-Russian immigrants.<sup>9</sup>

Shortly after Beulah was platted coal mining and electrical power industries established operations in or near the town and throughout Mercer County. These industries would prove critical to the growth and development of the community. The Beulah Coal Company was established in 1917 and became the vicinity's most important underground mine. This company was later renamed the Knife River Coal Mining Co. and established a mine just northeast of Beulah which was known as the North Beulah Mine. The North Beulah Mine was North Dakota's top producer of coal in the late 1920s and early 1930s and employed 220 men.

Electrical power was also an important industry which utilized the areas abundant lignite coal supply. The first electrical power plant in Mercer County was the Beulah Power Plant which was established on the east side of

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Beulah in 1925. This plant, which was owned by the Hughes Electric Company was Mercer County's only electrical plant until 1966. In 1945 the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) purchased the Beulah plant which had become one of several Dakota Public Service Company properties. The plant ceased operation in the 1980s when a new power plant was constructed south of Beulah.<sup>10</sup>

With the rapid development of these industries, the county's population rose. The decade between 1910 and 1920 saw the population in Mercer County double from 4,700 to 8,200 people. This growth spurred the need for various community services such as public schools. The first school house in Beulah was constructed in 1915. It was a small, one-story wood frame building located in the Spring Creek School District. In 1918 this school and the Spring Hill School District property was consolidated with the new Beulah School District #27.<sup>11</sup> By 1918 Beulah's population had grown and the school house could no longer meet the community's needs. A wood frame building was constructed as a temporary school in 1918. This building, which still stands at the northeast corner of First Avenue East and First Street, was later used as an American Legion Hall.

By 1920 Beulah's population had reached 552.<sup>12</sup> This same year, and only five years after the first school was constructed, Beulah completed its third school. This school, which provided the first four year high school program in Beulah, received design approval by the State Board of Education and was considered to be a completely modern educational facility. It was the first brick building in Beulah and had four classrooms, an assembly room and a small library. The 1920 school was designed by Frederick W. Keith, a Fargo architect who with his partner William F. Kurke, was the architect for the Liberty Memorial Building at Bismarck and associates for the North Dakota State Capitol.<sup>13</sup>

The population of Beulah continued to increase and by 1925 the 1920 school could no longer accommodate the community's school age children. The old frame school houses were used until the brick school could be expanded. With Beulah's population reaching 913 in 1930,<sup>14</sup> an addition was added to the 1920 school. This addition was designed by Herman Leonard and constructed by J. C. Beattie. The addition doubled the size of the school and provided seven new classrooms, a large gymnasium and an assembly room. The gymnasium was "considered to be one of the finest in the area."<sup>15</sup>

After World War II, another addition was made to the school off the west facade of the 1930 addition. Keeping with changes in the education field, this addition featured a Vocational Agriculture Department, Home Economics Department and two science rooms. A second floor was added to this section in 1953 creating four new classrooms.

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A large gymnasium was constructed east of the 1920 school in 1953. The gymnasium had a stage and was also used as an auditorium. Continued community growth lead to the construction of a new school in 1964. This new school was sited three blocks north of the old school. It was designed by Arlo C. Beattie and built by Lunn Construction. After the new school was completed, the old school was used for grades K-8.<sup>16</sup>

The 1920 Beulah School was used as a middle school until 1996 when another new school was completed. The 1920 school is currently vacant.

As a public school, the Beulah School exemplifies the significant gains made in North Dakota's education system. The school reflects the move toward consolidation and the need to provide modern teaching facilities to accommodate changes in school curriculum.

The earliest schools in North Dakota were established prior to statehood and were located in school districts authorized by the territorial legislature. These early schools had separate codes of law and were typically modest one room school houses. In 1883 the territorial legislature enacted a law whereby township schools could be established. Thus some counties in North Dakota were governed by the district system while others the township system. By 1889, with the establishment of North Dakota's statehood, state enabling legislation was passed by the United States Congress that allowed the state government to institute a public school system that provided educational opportunities to all children without religious ties or prejudice to anyone. The act also mandated that sections 16 and 36 of each township should be devoted to benefit public schools and could not be sold for less than ten dollars an acre. This provided a sizable and valuable land grant of 2,523,383.78 acres.<sup>17</sup>

By the turn-of-the-century, North Dakotans were exploring consolidating schools. Consolidation was seen as a way to cut costs by maintaining fewer schools, increase the quality of the education by better facilities and teachers, increase overall attendance, and an opportunity to rid the state of one-room schools house that were viewed as obsolete and lacking appropriate health and safety features. In 1901 Traill [sic] County established the first consolidated school in Caledonia civil township.<sup>18</sup> Three years later Grand Forks County had constructed the first modern consolidated school.<sup>19</sup>

Consolidation was encouraged through state aid that provided financial support and assisted in the development of school systems.<sup>20</sup> Likewise the Country Life Movement, an urban-based rural education reform movement that developed in the early 20th century, favored consolidation of rural schools to "facilitate efficient instruction in agriculture, domestic science, and industrial arts by competent and professional teachers." Improvements in education would "orient youth toward agriculture and would also bear immediate fruit in the form of enhanced

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rural efficiency.”<sup>21</sup> Thus consolidation greatly influenced the modernization of school plants to meet changing curriculum needs as well as the desire to create safe and healthy learning environments.

Architectural significance of the Beulah School:

The 1920 Beulah School is a good local example of the Prairie School and International styles. It is the only representation of the Prairie School style in the community. The school’s size, prominence and highly visible location makes it a unique landmark. The building’s low-pitched roof, wide overhanging eaves, the window groupings articulated with brick panels and pilasters clearly reference the Prairie School style.

The Prairie School style is an indigenous American architectural form that developed from the Prairie School architectural movement which began around 1900 and was a popular style during the first quarter of the 20th century. This style, which reached its apex in 1914, developed in suburban Chicago and became popular throughout the Midwest. Rejecting historical styles, the Prairie style exemplified the “spirit of the prairies of the great Middle West.” As noted by Harold Brooks, Prairie style buildings typically had a “horizontal unity”. Low hipped and sometimes gable roofs, horizontal ribbon windows or banding created a “continuity of line, edge and surface. . . (this) lent horizontal unity to the design, and against these horizontals a spirited interplay was established with short vertical accents, such as piers, mullions, and subsidiary masses.” The style was propagated by various Chicago and Midwest-based architects as Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Burley Griffin, Dwight H. Perkins, George Grant Elmslie and William Gray Purcell. One of the great strengths of the style was its adaptability to various building types, thus it was widely used in residential, commercial and civic structures.<sup>22</sup>

The 1949 addition to the school reflects the International style through its cubic massing, flat roof, ribbon windows and lack of ornamentation. The International style in America was an outgrowth of European modernism that had been promulgated first by Swiss and Viennese émigrés such as William Lescaze and Richard Neutra and later by German-based Bauhaus architects Walter Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. French architect Le Corbusier was also influential in the development of the style. Viewed as a progressive form of architecture that debunked classical precedents, International style architecture was without applied ornamentation and focused on functionalism and the use of industrial-influenced architecture. American architects such as Philip Johnson, who with Henry-Russell Hitchcock coined the style’s name, and Louis Kahn were trained or directly influenced by European architects and helped fostered the development of the style in America. The style utilized asymmetrical massing, cubic shapes and industrial-quality building features such as exposed steel frames with glass curtain walls or ribbon windows. International style buildings began to be constructed in America around 1926; the style is still used today. The first commercial building designed in the International style was the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society (PSFS) building constructed in Philadelphia, PA., in 1929.<sup>23</sup>

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**Frederick Walcott Keith**

Frederick Walcott Keith was born in Mt. Vernon, Iowa and received his certificate to practice architecture in North Dakota in 1917 (No. 20).<sup>24</sup> He was a partner with William F. Kurke in the firm of Kurke Associates, AIA, Fargo, North Dakota, and appears to have lived in Fargo from 1922-1926. This firm designed the Liberty Memorial building (1920) at the North Dakota State Capitol mall.<sup>25</sup> No other information could be obtained about Mr. Keith or his work.

**Herman Leonhard**

Herman Leonhard was a Bismarck architect who practiced in North Dakota from 1920 until 1973 when he retired. Leonhard designed many buildings in Bismarck, including the Professional Building and St. George's Episcopal Church. He assisted with the design of Bismarck's U. S Post Office, Federal Building, Missouri Slope Lutheran Home, Shepherd Lutheran Church, and the Northern National Life Insurance Company. Prior to World War II Mr. Leonhard lived in Mandan and was partners with Nick Ressler. During this period he worked with the Works Progress Administration, the North Dakota Highway Department and the War Production Board. He left Mandan after World War II to practice architecture in Bismarck. In 1954 he formed a partnership with Jack G. Askew which lasted until 1968.<sup>26</sup> Mr. Leonard served as the president of the North Dakota Chapter of the AIA.<sup>27</sup>

Historic significance of the landscaping treatment:

The landscaping treatment around the school is likewise an important historic feature of this property. This vernacular landscaping project was developed under the Federal Emergency Relief Agency (FERA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). This project helped to stabilize the school's sloped site and provided valuable income and jobs for Beulah residents during the Depression. Like other Federal relief projects, the school's landscaping treatment was a labor intensive project that utilized readily available local materials.<sup>28</sup> Relief workers prepared the site by leveling and scraping area's of the school block for placing the fieldstones used for the rip rapping.<sup>29</sup> The scrapping was completed by horse pulled scrappers. Workers hand-laid the field stone starting from the bottom up. Dirt and concrete were used to secure rocks.<sup>30</sup> Field rocks were purchased from farmers, thus providing some financial relief for Beulah's drought-ravaged population.<sup>31</sup> WPA funds were also used to construct alleys, sidewalks and street crossings, install recreation equipment and improve landscaping in Beulah between 1935-1936.<sup>32</sup>

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) was an early Federal relief initiative of the New Deal. Created in 1933, FERA provided \$500,000,000 in grant money which was distributed throughout the United States for desperately needed relief efforts. Later, other Federal programs such as the Public Works

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Administration (PWA) and WPA were developed. The PWA was instituted by President Franklin Roosevelt under Executive Order 6174 via the powers granted to him under Title II, "Public Works and Construction Projects," of the National Recovery Act. The PWA was not viewed as a relief agency, but a vehicle to foster the restoration of America's Depression-ravaged economy. Designed to aid in the recovery of the building trades and attendant industries, the PWA established grant and loan programs for public and non-public corporations.<sup>33</sup>

The WPA, which was established in 1935, was an outgrowth of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. The WPA was designed to provide much needed employment opportunities for people across America and to unite and better coordinate multiple federal relief programs. Typical projects funded by the WPA included federal and non-federal agency initiatives. Generally, most of the projects were overseen and administered by local governments and reflected a wide-range of project types such as soil conservation, road construction, public buildings, parks, airports, forestation, wildlife conservation and other community-related needs. By 1939, the WPA was joined with the Federal Works Agency and became known as the Work Projects Administration.<sup>34</sup>



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Endnotes (for Sections 7 and 8)

- <sup>1</sup> Beulah Jubilee Book Committee. *Beulah, North Dakota, Golden Anniversary, 1914-1964*, p. 232.
- <sup>2</sup> Tillie Dettmann, Mercer County Historical Society, 5 August 1997, and William Creech, reference librarian, National Archives, 5 August 1997, interviews by author.
- <sup>3</sup> Historic views of the school (ca. 1925) from the Mercer County Historical Society show only the south terrace suggesting that the north terrace was a later development.
- <sup>4</sup> Tillie Dettmann, 25 April 1997, interview by author.
- <sup>5</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>6</sup> Building description is based on site visit by author 24-25 April 1997.
- <sup>7</sup> Susan Granger and Scott Kelly, *Five Mercer County Townsites: North Dakota Cultural Resources Survey, Final Report*, 1990, pp. 68-69.
- <sup>8</sup> Ibid., p. 25.
- <sup>9</sup> City of Beulah Jubilee Committee. *Beulah, N.D. 1914 - 1989*, pp. 6-7.
- <sup>10</sup> Granger, p. 34.
- <sup>11</sup> Beulah Jubilee Book Committee. *Beulah, North Dakota, Golden Anniversary, 1914-1964*, p. 232.
- <sup>12</sup> Granger, p. 28.
- <sup>13</sup> Larry Remele. *The North Dakota State Capitol: Architecture and History* (Bismarck, State Historical Society of North Dakota, 1989), pp. 42-44.
- <sup>14</sup> Granger, p. 28.
- <sup>15</sup> Beulah Jubilee Book Committee. *Beulah, North Dakota, Golden Anniversary, 1914-1964*, p. 232.
- <sup>16</sup> Ibid., p. 234.
- <sup>17</sup> Works Projects Administration, North Dakota. *Survey of the Public Education System in North Dakota*, ca. 1940, pp. 27-31.
- <sup>18</sup> Norman H. Hanson. *History of Consolidated Schools in North Dakota: A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate Department of the University of North Dakota*, August 1946, p. 28.
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid., p. 30.
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid., p. 14.
- <sup>21</sup> David B. Danbom. *The Resisted Revolution: Urban America and the Industrialization of Agriculture, 1900-1930* (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press), pp. 131-15 and 56-57.
- <sup>22</sup> Harold Allen Brooks. *The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and his Midwest Contemporaries* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1972), pp. 5-8.
- <sup>23</sup> see Kenneth Frampton. *Modern Architecture: A Critical History* (London: Thames and Hudson Ltd., 1985), pp. 248-261 and Leland M. Roth. *A Concise History of American Architecture*. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1979, pp. 243-245, pp. 264-265, pp. 276-286.
- <sup>24</sup> see State Historical Society of North Dakota, Secretary of State Board of Architecture Registration Files, Series 448, Box 1, Folder 1.
- <sup>25</sup> Remele, p. 43.
- <sup>26</sup> see Bismarck Tribune, 25 January 1974, p. 12, and the Northwest Architect (photocopied, n. d. or citation).
- <sup>27</sup> The North Dakota Chapter of the AIA could not provide the exact dates of Mr. Leonard's presidency.
- <sup>28</sup> For additional information regarding Federal relief landscapes or landscape features see Phoebe Cutler, *The Public Landscape of the New Deal* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985), and Linda Flint McClelland, *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1942* (Washington, D. C.: National Park Service, 1993).

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<sup>29</sup> Beulah Independent, 19 July 1934.

<sup>30</sup> Letter to Tillie Dettmann from Lawrence Joos, 20 February 1997.

<sup>31</sup> Letter to Jim Wilson from Tillie Dettmann, n.d.

<sup>32</sup> *Beulah, North Dakota 1914-1989*, p. 39. William Creech, reference librarian, National Archives, 5 August 1997, telephone interview by author. Creech noted that two WPA project numbers existed for Beulah, North Dakota, 65-73-242 (1935) and 165-73-2006 (1936).

<sup>33</sup> Rolf Anderson. *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form for Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941*, 1991, Section E, pp. 1-10, 27-29

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 48-51.

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Legal Description: All of Block 16 of the original Townsite of Beulah, North Dakota excluding the area which is clearly delineated on the site map (see Figure 1, Section 7, Page 6).

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Beulah School includes the 1920 school, its 1930 and 1949 additions, the north and south terraces and the stone rip rapping around the perimeter of the school block. These features reflect the growth and development of the school during its period of significance from 1920 - 1949. The 1953 gymnasium is outside the period of significance and is not included in the boundaries. This gymnasium will remain under the ownership of Beulah Public School District #27. Figure 1 shows the boundary.