

(Oct. 1990)

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 an 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 Lincoln School #12

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 45352 Timber Road

☐ not for publication

city or town Meckling

☒ vicinity

state South Dakota code SD county Clay code 027 zip code 57044

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for 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

Date

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Date of Action

Edson R. Beall

8/16/00

Lincoln School #12
Name of Property

Clay County, South Dakota
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Schools in South Dakota

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Folk Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof WOOD: Shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheet.

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 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1914 - 1950

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

South Dakota Office of History

Lincoln School #12
Name of Property

Clay County, South Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 652744 4739515
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

☐ 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 Christopher J. Hetzel
organization date June 1, 2000
street & number 5736 N. Las Virgenes Rd., #222 telephone (818) 871-9637
city or town Calabasas state CA zip code 91302

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Ron and Jo Lindahl
street & number 45352 Timber Road Telephone (605) 267-4210
city or town Meckling state SD zip code 57044

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 listing. 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Lincoln School #12
Clay County, South Dakota

SECTION 7: Description

The Lincoln School #12 in Norway Township, Clay County, South Dakota is an excellent example of the standardization of rural schoolhouse design in South Dakota during the early 1910s. Established by the South Dakota Department of Public Instruction's standardized guidelines adopted in 1907 and the South Dakota Financial Incentive Program of 1919, South Dakota's standards for school design and construction influenced such features as classroom doors, egresses, window to floor area formulae, artificial lighting, windows, chimneys, and ventilation. Constructed in 1914, the Lincoln School #12 replaced an older school building moved from the site in 1913 and added to a nearby residence. This older one-room schoolhouse, built circa 1870 with a front-gable roof, bell tower, and two walls of windows, was based on older conceptions of schoolhouse design. In comparison, the Lincoln School #12, incorporated the standardized designs and facilities recommended for rural schoolhouses of the time. Its construction consequently reveals much about the evolution of standardized rural schoolhouse design in South Dakota during the early twentieth century.

Lincoln School #12 is a one-story wood-frame structure with a basement. It has a poured concrete foundation, horizontal wood clapboard siding, and a hip roof with non-original composition shingles. The existing shingle roof replaced a layer of original wood shingles and two layers of composition shingle roofing removed in 1994. Exposed rafter tails are visible along the building's open cornice and vertical corner boards decorate all elevations. The school's fenestration consists of tall, paired, nine-over-nine, double-hung, wood sash classroom windows on the school's east elevation; six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows and six-light casement windows on the school's south elevation; and three-light, hopper casement windows in the basement. The existing exterior wood doors and corresponding trim are modern replacements installed during the school's restoration from 1994 to 1996. The original drip molding was also repaired when the current owner acquired the property and removed non-original aluminum gutters and downspouts in 1991.

The school building stands on a parcel of land with a south/north orientation. A road runs east to west along the property's southern boundary, and a gravel driveway leading to an adjacent residence extends along its eastern boundary. Shelterbelts of trees bound the western and northern sides of the property. A residence, constructed in 1994, stands in the shelterbelt north of the schoolhouse. A shelterbelt originally protected the property's eastern boundary as well. Other original features of the property, now missing, include an iron fence along the road on the property's southern boundary; a barbed wire fence in the shelterbelt along the northern boundary; and a flagpole and merry-go-round removed from the property after the school's closure in 1969. The remnants of a gravel semi-circular driveway are also visible in the yard south of the school's main entrance.

Lincoln School #12's main entrance is centered in the building's south (front) façade. A stoop and short flight of poured concrete steps with iron pipe handrails lead to the door opening. Six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows flank the main entrance on either side, and a small vent pierces the elevation overhead. Space for a school bell is located behind the vent. The school's original bell occupied this space until its removal after the school's closure in 1969. Two casement windows flank the double-hung windows, and two basement windows flank the front stoop. The building's brick chimney stands slightly off center on the south elevation's roof rake.

The schoolhouse's west and north elevations contain few features. A grade-level side entrance pierces the west elevation, leading to an interior stairwell. Three pairs of nine-over-nine, double-hung, wood sash windows with wood frames characterize the Lincoln School #12's east elevation. All three elevations have basement-level casement windows. The remnant of a basement coal chute is also present on the building's east elevation.

Lincoln School #12's interior contains a standardized design with one classroom and cloakrooms and toilet rooms flanking the main entrance. The main classroom has one wall of windows for illumination; original wood floors covered with rolled vinyl

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Lincoln School #12
Clay County, South Dakota

floor in the 1960s; a twelve foot lathe and plaster ceiling with a textured plaster finish; plaster walls; original baseboards and picture rails; original interior wood doors; and an original wood-framed blackboard. Centered in the middle of the classroom and vented through the south wall, a coal-burning stove was the schoolhouse's original source of heat. An oil-burning furnace replaced the coal stove in the 1940s and was moved to the basement. The current owners installed the existing furnace to replace this older system in 1994.

The cloakrooms and toilet rooms have the same finishes as the main classroom, as does the interior staircase. According to the current owners, the school originally had chemical toilets. Flush toilets later replaced these fixtures and were located in the small rooms flanking each cloakroom. The current owners converted the western cloakroom into a bathroom and installed the existing toilet fixtures in 1994.

The basement of Lincoln School #12 was originally an unfinished space used for storage and indoor projects and activities. In addition to the furnace, an indoor well and water pump were installed after the property's outdoor well was abandoned. The current owners partitioned off the western half of the basement and finished it as a bedroom during the schools 1994-1996 restoration. The rest of the basement remains in its original unfinished state with poured concrete floor and foundation walls, exposed floor joists in the ceiling, and three-light, wood casement windows in all elevations.

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Lincoln School #12
Clay County, South Dakota

SECTION 8: Statement of Significance

The Lincoln School #12 in Norway Township, Clay County, South Dakota is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. The building is significant under Criterion A in the context of education for its role in the educational development of schools in rural South Dakota during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and under criterion C as an excellent example of the type of standardized rural schoolhouse design commonly built in South Dakota during the 1910s. Its construction represents the state of progressive educational reform in Clay County during the 1910s and the manner in which these reforms manifested themselves in the school's physical design.

With school held as early as 1870, the residents of the Village of Lincoln, South Dakota organized the Lincoln School in 1887. Established in 1864, the Village was later moved and became the nucleus of the Town of Meckling, South Dakota. The community constructed the existing Lincoln School #12 in 1914. It replaced an older one-room schoolhouse removed from the site in 1913 and added to a nearby residence. The existing school closed in 1969.

Educational reform in South Dakota as it affected the design of new school construction had its origin in the Progressive era policies of the late nineteenth century. During this time, reformers believed that improved school facilities directly affected the quality of education in rural communities and advocated the implementation of standardized school designs. They cited overcrowding, inadequate lighting, and poor heating and ventilation as just a few of the conditions that hindered learning, and believed that modern, properly constructed facilities would bring concepts of progress to rural communities.

To combat these perceived shortcomings, policy makers implemented progressive curriculum reforms at all levels of government. In 1880, the United States Bureau of Education published an influential plan book of standardized school designs and specifications for school improvement. Many state governments followed suit by formulating their own plans for educational reform, using the federal plan as a model. State policy, however, languished until 1908 when President Theodore Roosevelt formed the National Commission on Country Life. This Commission focused national attention on the inadequacies of rural schools and encouraged state governments to implement standardized formulas and recommendations for school design in the 1900s and 1910s.

In South Dakota, the first statewide effort towards school standardization occurred in 1907 when the State Superintendent of Instruction adopted specific guidelines for school construction. The state legislature formalized these guidelines and granted the State Superintendent the power of approval over all new school construction plans at this time. These new standards for school construction called for at least fifteen square feet of floor space in each classroom, two hundred cubic feet of air space per pupil, and an approved heating and ventilation system among other regulations. The placement of classroom windows was of particular concern, as contemporaries believed that improper illumination caused headaches, backaches, and various nervous disorders. Consequently, the state guidelines prescribed specific window arrangements and formulas, dictating the size of windows and limiting their placement on only one wall of a classroom. By 1915, these regulations also extended to such features as classroom doors, egresses, window-to-floor area formulae, artificial lighting, windows, chimneys, fire drills and escapes, ventilation, and water fountains.

The construction of the Lincoln School #12 represents an important step in the evolution of these standardized designs. Completed in 1914, the school exhibits an early form of standardized school design for a one-room rural schoolhouse that replaced an older one-room schoolhouse constructed in 1887. The design of the older school embodied the most basic conceptions of early schoolhouse design in South Dakota. It was a one-story, wood-frame structure with clapboard siding, a gable roof, a rectangular plan, and windows along two walls. It also had a bell tower, was painted white, and looked much

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Lincoln School #12
Clay County, South Dakota

like a church. Prior to South Dakota's aforementioned standardization efforts, these small schoolhouses were often constructed in a familiar form and with known practices. Their designs relied heavily upon the established architectural styles familiar to their builders, primarily settlers who had emigrated from New England and the Midwest, and many possessed a strong connection to the church.

In comparison, the Lincoln School #12 incorporated the standardized designs and facilities recommended for rural schoolhouses in the mid 1910s. The one-room schoolhouse had classroom windows arranged on a single wall, an interior entrance vestibule, a generally symmetrical plan, and a full basement, which raised the building height by nearly four feet. The schoolhouse also contained provisions for a temporary stage during occasional performances, indoor toilets, and separate girl's and boy's cloakrooms. All of these details, among others, were in keeping with contemporary notions of standardized school construction. On the exterior, the Lincoln School #12 reflected contemporary school design with its symmetrical façade, hipped roof, and wood clapboard siding.

The standardized plans and designs promulgated by the State of South Dakota were similar to those prescribed by the United States Department of Education, and other state and local agencies in the early twentieth century. These standards provided schools across the nation with uniformity in layout, appearance, and function best suited to for educational environment. The Lincoln School #12 is a local example of this prominent building type.

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Lincoln School #12
Clay County, South Dakota

SECTION 9: Bibliography

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Erpstad, David and David Wood. Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945. Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997.

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Hallstrom, Linda and Maricarrol Kueter. South Dakota Country School Days. Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Co., 1987.

Hay Country History: A Story of the Pioneers of the Gayville and Meckling, South Dakota Area. Vermillion, SD: Broadcaster Press, Inc., 1972.

Historic Sites Committee, Clay County Place Names. Vermillion, SD: Clay County Historical Society, Inc., 1976.

Onsite Photography. "A Context for Educational Development in South Dakota." Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society, 1999.

"Plat Book of Clay County, South Dakota." Harlan, IA: R. C. Booth Enterprises, 1956.

Schell, Herbert S. "History of Clay County, South Dakota." Vermillion, SD: Clay County Historical Society, Inc..

Wilson, Norma C. and Charles L. Woodward, eds.. One-Room Country School: South Dakota Stories. Brookings, SD: South Dakota Humanities Foundation, 1999.

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Lincoln School #12
Clay County, South Dakota

SECTION 10: Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

West 165' of South 528' of the Southeast ¼, 08-092-53, Norway Township, Clay County, South Dakota

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Lincoln School #12.

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Section number Photos Page 7

Lincoln School #12
Clay County, South Dakota

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION: Photographs

Name: Lincoln School #12
Location: Norway Township, Clay County, South Dakota

Photographer: Christopher J. Hetzel
Date: July 1999

Location of Negatives: Historic Resources Group
1728 Whitley Court
Hollywood, CA 90028

1. South and east elevations, looking northwest
2. South elevation, looking north
3. West elevation, looking northeast
4. North elevation, looking south
5. East elevation, looking east
6. Main classroom, looking south
7. Main classroom, looking northwest
8. Main staircase from the basement, looking west
9. Basement, looking north