NPS Form 10-900 Oct. 1990

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

1352

# DEC 1 2 2008 NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES 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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property				······································
Historic name	Lone Star School,	District 64		
Other name/site numb				
2 Location				
2. Location				
Street & number	Rural Route, 1 1/4 mile	West of Bison Ave M	not for publication	
City or town	Bison		✓ vicinity	•
State Kansas C	ode KS County Ru	sh Code 165	Zip code 67520	
3. State/Federal Agency	Certification			
Historic Places and me meets does no nationally state Patrick Zollner, Depart Kansas State Hist State or Federal ager  In my opinion, the proposition	eets the procedural and profet meet the National Register ewide locally. ( See consider See See See See See See See See See S	ssional requirements set forth incriteria. I recommend that this pontinuation sheet for additional of the set	egistering properties in the National Register 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the proper property be considered significant comments.)  - 8-08  Date  Tria. ( See continuation sheet for addition	erty
Signature of commenti	ng omciai / nie	Dale		
State or Federal agend	y and bureau			
4. National Park Service	Certification			
I herby certify that the prope  entered in the Nation See continual determined eligible to Register See continual determined not eligit National Register removed from the National Register other, (explain:)	nal Register tion sheet tion sheet ble for the	Signature of the Keep	Date of	Action 22/09

Lone Star School, District 64  Name of Property		Rush County, Kansas County and State			
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.)			
private public-local public-State public-Federal	building(s) district site structure object	Contributing  Noncontributing  buildings sites structures objects  total			
Name of related multiple property list (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a	multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register			
Historic Public Schools of Kansas		0			
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter Categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			
Education: School		Work in progress			
Religion: Religious facility					
Social: Clubhouse		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		-			
	•				
·					
7. Description					
Architectural Classification Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)			
Other: Vemacular		Foundation: Stone: Limestone  Walls: Stone: Limestone			
	·	Roof: Wood: Shingle			
		Other: Brick			

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

Lone Star School, District 64	Rush County, Kansas		
Name of Property	County and State		
3. Statement of Significance			
Applicable National Register Criteria  Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)		
	Architecture		
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our	Education		
history	Luncanon		
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	Period of Significance		
individual distinction.	1879 - 1947		
D Property has yielded, or likely to yield,	10/3 - 134/		
information important in prehistory or history.			
Criteria Considerations			
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates		
Property is:	1879		
	433		
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.			
B removed from it original location.	Significant Person		
C a birthplace or grave.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)		
D a cemetery.	N/A		
	The state of the s		
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Cultural Affiliation		
F a commemorative property.			
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	N/A		
within the past 50 years			
	Architect/Builder		
Narrative Statement of Significance			
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	Mertz, Henry (Contractor)		
onundation sneeds.)	Rogers, Henry (Carpenter)		
9. Major Bibliographical References			
Bibliography Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form or	n one or more continuation sheets )		
one are posite, and one of our order of the proparing and term of	The state of the s		
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:		
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	State Historic Preservation Office		
has been requested	☐ Other State agency		
previously listed in the National Register	☐ Federal agency		
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Local government		
designated a National Historic Landmark	☐ University		
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Other		
<u> </u>	Name of repository:		
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Lone Star Community Club, Bison, Kansas		
Record #			

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	Lone Star School,	District 64		Rush County, Kansa	IS	
Acreage of Property One acre  UTN References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)  1	Name of Property					
UTIN References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)    1	10. Geographical I	Data				
Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)   1	Acreage of Property	One acre				
Name   Lone Star Community Club, Attn. Erma Wood   Street & number   PO Box 266   Telephone   PO Box 266   PO Box 266   Telephone   PO Box 266   Telephone   PO Box 266   PO Box 266	(Place additional UTM  1 1 4 8 Zone Easting 2 Verbal Boundary Desc	0 7 0 0 4 2 6 3 6 9 Northing	Zone Eas		ng	
Name/title Dolores Romeiser, Diane Bott and Rick Anderson (KSHS)  Organization Bison Community Library Date  Street & number PO Box 406 Telephone 785.356.4803  City or town Bison State KS Zip code 67520  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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)  Property Owner  Name Lone Star Community Club, Attn. Erma Wood  Street & number PO Box 266 Telephone						
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City or town Bison State KS Zip code 67520		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Telephone			
	City or townI	Bison	State KS	Zip code	67520	

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 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 20503

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Lone Star School, District 64 Bison vicinity, Rush County, Kansas

#### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Lone Star School building is located on a one-acre plot on the north side of Rush County Road Avenue M about 1-1/4 miles west of Bison. It is a one-room limestone building erected in 1879 by the German Methodist Episcopal Church Society. Typical of early one-room schoolhouses and churches, this building features a simple rectangular form with a gable roof. Constructed of native limestone and bearing no specific stylistic references, the building is classified as vernacular.

#### **Exterior**

The building sits parallel to Avenue M and faces east. It is surrounded by farmland on the east, west, and north sides, with the road on the south. Its rectangular form measures 32'3" by 22'1". The sidewalls are 11' high with another 7' to the peak. The limestone blocks are 9 ½" square with various lengths 18" to 28". A new wood-shingle roof and a red brick chimney complete the original building.

A 12'2" by 12'1" gable roof, wood-frame vestibule was added to the front (east) sometime after 1903 to provide an enclosed entry with storage cabinets and a kitchen area. The addition is covered with sheets of pressed tin and rests on a concrete foundation. The roof of the addition also has wood shingles. There is a double-hung wood window on the east elevation of the vestibule. Access to the vestibule is through the south elevation of the addition. A slab of limestone measuring 6'7" by 4'2" serves as a step. Inside the addition located above the schoolroom's original entrance in the limestone wall is a hand carved star with the inscription "Lone Star School House 1879". A newspaper reference from the 1940s suggests Reverend C. G. Fritsche "carved a star in a stone and placed it in the East gable."

The west (rear) elevation is unadorned and contains no windows. A relocated brick chimney protrudes from the gable peak at the west end of the roof. A stovepipe connects a wood burning stove at the east end of the classroom to the chimney at the west wall.

The north and south (side) elevations are identical, each with three windows. The wood windows are double-hung with four panes per sash (4/4) set within limestone lintels and sills. Hinged wood-frame screens cover each of the six windows. These windows are well maintained and appear to be the originals. (Historic photographs from the early 1900s show these windows.)

#### Interior

The entry vestibule has a concrete floor and a wood-frame construction. The ceiling and interior walls of the vestibule are flat, horizontal, tongue-and-groove wood boards. There are double-globe gas light fixtures in the vestibule that date to the early 1900s. Each lamp has its own gas control valve. A small propane tank is located outside the north elevation of the vestibule.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Crotinger, William. Bison Methodism. The La Crosse Republican. La Crosse, KS November 14, 1940 pp. 1 & 8.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Lone Star School, District 64 Bison vicinity, Rush County, Kansas

The interior of the schoolhouse is typical of one-room schools and churches of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries with plaster walls, a wood floor, a tin ceiling, and large windows on either side of the classroom. The front of the classroom on the west end contains a raised platform where a podium or teacher's desk was located. The platform also served as a stage for plays and other school activities. The original chalkboard still graces the west wall behind the original teacher's desk. The classroom features some of the original students' desks.

Extant lighting fixtures in the classroom are single- and double-globe fixtures that date to the early 1900s. Similarly, two gas fixtures are near the entryway. A gas line connects them to a small heater to the left of the entrance. This heater's stove pipe vents through the roof directly above it.

There are freestanding display cases near the entrance that hold many artifacts, photographs, and documents relating to the school's history.

### **Outbuildings**

### Shed (date unknown), contributing

At the southwest corner of the property stands a side-gable, wood-frame coal shed covered with pressed tin. The building includes exposed rafter tails and a wood shingle roof. It contains one single-door (wood) entrance on the east elevation. It is now used for storage.

### Outhouse (date unknown), contributing

A side-gable, wood-frame outhouse is located southeast of the school building. The exterior is clad with flat, vertical, and tongue-and-groove wood boards. The building features exposed rafter tails and a wood shingle roof. It contains one single-door (wood) entrance on the east elevation.

The steel frame of a playground swing set, a flagpole, and the hand-pumped well are located in the area east of the vestibule.

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Lone Star School, District 64
Bison vicinity, Rush County, Kansas

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lone Star School (1879) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its associations with public education in Kansas<sup>2</sup> and under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a good example of an early vernacular one-room limestone schoolhouse. The property meets the registration requirements of the multiple property nomination *Historic Public Schools in Kansas*.

#### Architecture

Contractor Henry Mertz and carpenter Henry Rogers built the dual-purpose building for church services on Sundays and for school activities during the week. Area families donated labor and materials including the limestone, which was more readily available than wood. The building is representative of the *One-room Schools* property type outlined in the MPS:

In addition to eastern settlers, immigrants, many of whom were craftsmen such as stone masons, helped to shape Kansas schoolhouses. The earliest country schools in Kansas were built by local settlers with the available materials. These buildings are classified as vernacular in style. The schoolhouse was typically among the first community buildings constructed, along with a church. The schoolhouse symbolized permanence and was prominently located to entice new settlers as they passed early settlements.<sup>3</sup>

A common, universal form emerged; the earliest buildings were typically a rectangular plan with one open room. The wood-frame schoolhouse with wood clapboard siding and stone foundation is most common, although in areas blessed with native stone, early schools were built of local limestone and sandstone. The schoolhouses typically had a simple gable roof with wood shingles and a brick or stone chimney located at the center or rear of the gable peak. The majority had a cupola or bell tower on the front gable. The common schoolhouse had three windows on each side and a single central door on the front, sometimes flanked by two windows. The interior of the schoolhouse was utilitarian with wood floors, plaster walls (sometimes with wood wainscoting), and plaster or wood ceilings. The schools were heated with a wood or coal stove and furnishings were limited to students' desks, the teacher's desk, and typically a slate chalkboard.<sup>4</sup>

These early one-room school buildings frequently served multiple purposes within the community, such as a place to hold religious services, community meetings, and classes.<sup>5</sup> The Lone Star School is an

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Spencer Brenda R., "Historic Public Schools of Kansas." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission. 2005 Filed the Kansas State Historical Society.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid., p. 29

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid. p. 37.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lone Star School, District 64
Bison vicinity, Rush County, Kansas

example of the rural, vernacular-style, multi-purpose building. It retains a high degree of architectural integrity and including its historic location, setting, design, feeling, association, materials, and workmanship.

### **Local History and Property History**

The first European settlers arrived in the area in 1870. Rush County was organized December 5, 1874 following an act of the Kansas Legislature in 1873 to establish new legislative boundaries in the area. The county was named in honor of Captain Alexander Rush, Company H, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kansas Colored Infantry, who was killed in action on April 30, 1864 at Jenkins' Ferry, Arkansas. The first four municipal divisions of Rush County occurred in 1875 with a population of 5,490. These first townships were then divided further into eight in 1878 and then thirteen in 1880. The community of Bison in the Lone Star Township developed in 1886 along the Missouri Pacific Railroad that ran west through La Crosse, the county seat. By 1910, the population of Bison was 375 and included a bank, weekly newspaper, telegraph offices, a telephone company, general stores, and a post office.

The early settlers to Rush County first established their homes and then built a place to assemble and worship. The county's first Methodist Episcopal Church was in need of a meeting place at about the same time that Lone Star School District Number 34 organized. George Ficken, Jr. donated one acre of land upon which to situate the building and construction began in 1878. Area families donated materials and labor. Stonemason Henry Mertz laid the building's stones and was assisted by carpenter Henry Rogers. This building served the dual purpose of hosting religious services on the weekend and educational activities during the week. This arrangement continued until 1890 when the school district purchased the church's share of the building for \$300.8 For the next 57 years, the building served as the area's public school for grades one through eight.

The building's construction was completed several years before the establishment of the Bison town site (ca. 1886), and before the Missouri Pacific Railroad arrived in Rush County in 1888. The railroad line passes by the school on the south side of the road.

Just one year after the building's construction, it was severely damaged by a tornado. Having little emergency funds, the community once again came together to repair the structure. Repairs were made to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Blackmar Frank W., "Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns prominent persons, etc. Vol. II." 1912 pp. 611-613. Chicago, Standard Publishing Company. Transcribed July 2002, Carolyn Ward.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Bison School District #64 School Board Organization document of "Description and Remarks". February 22, 1896. H.A. Russell, County Superintendent. By 1896, District Number 34 was noted to have become District Number 64. This document is also referenced through an amendment made by the District #61 on March 1, 1947 during districts' reorganization. See footnote #10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Crotinger, Wm. Bison Methodism. The La Crosse Republican. La Crosse, KS November 14, 1940 pp. 1 & 8.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lone Star School, District 64
Bison vicinity, Rush County, Kansas

the school and it continued to serve the community until it closed in 1947 when it merged with the Bison School District Number 61.

Another devastating tornado struck the area and the town of Bison on Saturday, April 20, 1912. The storm struck the town from the southwest and caused the greatest damage on the town's east side. The *Bison Bee* reported that property damage amounted to \$75,000 with two deaths and eleven people injured. The newspaper also reported that of the 26 windmills demolished in the area, 20 of them were in Bison. In a relief effort, residents of nearby La Crosse collected \$300 in donations to give to the people in Bison.

Because of the storm's devastation, the school board chose to temporarily close the damaged school one week prior to the end of the academic term. In a notice posted in the same issue of *Bison Bee*, the following appeared:

#### To the Patrons of Dist. 61,

All pupils in the eight grades of the common school course having an average of 70 or better for the course during the seven months will be promoted without examination, provided, that any pupil having an average in any one subject of less than 69 must take examination at the beginning of school next fall in that subject. All pupils having an average less than 70 will be required to take examination next fall.

Joseph Sparks S. C. Money C. Neve School Board <sup>9</sup>

Following the end of World War II, a national movement began to reduce the number of existing school districts and consolidate the smaller schools into larger districts. To handle consolidation, states created School District Boards of Reorganization in 1945. "Three states – Illinois, Iowa, and Kansas, provided for county school surveys designed to foster consolidation of rural school districts. The Kansas statute established a division of school reorganization in the state department of education, and a county school reorganization committee in each county. The county committee consists of five members appointed by the board of county commissioners from areas outside cities of 15,000 population or more." 10

Rush County became "one of the first in which the county reorganization committee completed some reorganization, [with] final orders for six new districts being published December 13, 1945...Including two districts which were disorganized because they had no pupils in 1944-45, a total of 14 of the county's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Bison Bee. Bison, KS April 26, 1912 p. 8.

Snider, Clyde F. and Neil F. Garvey. Rural Local Government: County and Township Government in 1945.
 The American Political Science Review. Vol. 41 no.1 (Feb. 1947) American Political Science Association.

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### Lone Star School, District 64 Bison vicinity, Rush County, Kansas

70 school units were eliminated this year."<sup>11</sup> As the reorganization of the county's school districts progressed, accounts of each change were noted in editions of *The Rush County News*.<sup>12</sup> Many of Rush County's smaller schools around Bison entered District #61 (Kansas Session Laws, 1945, ch.291.).<sup>13</sup>

Road and topographical conditions accompanied by changes in the state aid law for school districts would further assist the reorganization committees' incorporation of the smaller districts into nearby larger ones.

The existing road system and the resulting problem of transportation had much to do with the willingness of committees to submit, and of patrons to approve, reorganization plans, and also with the extent of reorganization which has been found practicable. Where topography and road conditions were found favorable to transportation, as in many parts of central and southwest Kansas reorganization plans for the entire county were developed rather rapidly, and there was a greater willingness to consider large, central school systems.

The reorganization program has been definitely affected by the changes which were made in the state aid law in 1945. Limiting state aid to one-teacher districts which had at least 10 pupils attending school brought to bear on nearly one-half of the one-teacher schools in the state considerable pressure for reorganization, since they could not meet this requirement, and would lose even the fractional part of state aid which had been allowed them under the old law. Simultaneously, the amount guaranteed per pupil was increased substantially for schools of two or more teachers which had at least 23 pupils. <sup>14</sup>

Today, a consolidated U.S.D. 403 serves Bison, Otis, Timken, Loretto, Olmitz, and Albert. The elementary school and high school are located in Otis.

After classes ended in 1947 at Lone Star School, the Sunshine Home Demonstration Unit acquired the building on June 25, 1947 from School District No. 61. Sunshine Unit members and community families continue to this day to document and preserve this property. Part of the ongoing historical documentation of the school includes collecting written accounts of former students, teachers, and area residents. (A selection of written accounts is included in an appendix to this document.) The Sunshine Extension Unit became the Lonestar Community Club, which assumed ownership of the building on May

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Kansas Legislative Council, Research Department Pub. No. 140 June 1946. The Rush County reorganization committee's final orders were published in *The Rush County News*. December 13, 1945. p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> September 15, 1945; November 22, 1945; November 29, 1945; December 13, 1945; July 4, 1946; October 17, 1946 (date that Lone Star District #64 was posted); November 28, 1946; December 5, 1946; December 19, 1946; December 26, 1946; and January 23, 1947 although county-wide total reorganization had not yet been accomplished.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Rush County Board of Reorganization updated the School District 61minutes document of "Description and Remarks". March 11, 1947. Also see footnote #7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Kansas Legislative Council, Research Department Pub. No. 140 June 1946.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Copy of the Rush County Register of Deeds title for this transaction dated June 25, 1947. Filed by Minnie I. Frazier, Register of Deeds, June 27, 1947.

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Lone Star School, District 64.
Bison vicinity, Rush County, Kansas

17, 1994.<sup>16</sup> The Lone Star Community Club is made up of former pupils, an FCE ladies unit, and descendants of former pupils.

The Lone Star School building stands as a symbol of the dedication and perseverance of those early settlers who worked so hard for a place to assemble and worship. The building has been maintained for younger generations of students and their families to see what the generations before them worked so hard to have for their families.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Copy of the Rush County Register of Deeds title for this transaction dated May 17, 1994. Filed by Register of Deeds, June 27, 1947. (signature illegible)

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Lone Star School, District 64
Bison vicinity, Rush County, Kansas

### APPENDIX: Written Accounts of Former Students and Teachers 17

My three teachers in my eight years at Lone Star School were Bessie Van Osdol, Frances (Holopirek) Riedel and Helen (Witt) Zimmerman...My brother and I started school at the same time even though he was older. We could not speak or understand the English language and the rest probably could not understand us but somehow in time we probably learned to communicate.

Leona Jacobs Leiker (attended grades one through eight, 1930-1938)

I went to Lone Star all eight grades. My teachers were Helen Witt, Mamie Armstrong, Bessie Newman, and Melba Schneider. They were real good teachers.

Eugene Jacobs

One thing in particular I remember is there was some of us boys who didn't like our teachers Mamie Armstrong and Bessie Newman, so at lunch time we would grab our lunch and climb about eight feet on the old wooden flag pole (which had wooden steps) and from the pole take a step over to the hall and then go up to the roof of the school house to eat our lunch and to get away from the teachers. My favorite teacher was Helen Witt...

Ralph Jacobs (attended grades one through eight.)

We had a very special teacher at Lone Star –Helen Witt. My brothers and sisters and I couldn't speak English when we started school. We only spoke German. We want to thank her for all we put her through to teach us to speak English and all us kids are doing well today. She was my teacher from first to seventh grade. My parents soon learned to speak English from us kids.

Mrs. Elenora Holzmeister

One of the unique occurrences at school was the one-on-one fighting between the older boys. It was in the seventh and eight grades...The combatants rolled on the ground screaming and yelling...Teacher never intervened, but rang the bell for the resumption of class. I suspect that recess had been shortened but we didn't know the difference. No one owned a timepiece. Things remained a little edgy for a short time between the fighters, but then all was forgotten in other interests.

Lester Seuser

I also remember the troop trains loaded with soldiers and war equipment and the big steam engines. I rode a pony to school and would race them on the way home. I also rode my bike sometimes. I had the farthest to get to school 2 ¾ miles.

George J. Seuser Jr.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> These accounts are undated, but have been collected over the last two years. They reference a period from the late 1930s through 1947.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lone Star School, District 64 Bison vicinity, Rush County, Kansas

Lone Star School has been part of the Seuser and Wagner families for over 100 years. Ferdinand and Martha (Sette) Seuser were involved with building the structure. At one time they donated the gas lights to the school, which are still in use today.

Loreda (Mrs. Bob) Wagner

As a former member of the Lone Star Ranger 4-H Club, we met there for the monthly meetings. There was plenty of room for 20 members and their parents to congregate. By that time in the latter 1940s a propane stove was added with gaslights that hung from the tin ceiling with a mantel and globe. Therefore we could use it nights.

Shirley Erb

Perhaps the most valuable experiences were the constant repetition of arithmetic, reading, geography and spelling as they were heard daily over my eight years there. Miss Helen would often lead us in singing a variety of songs while she played the piano.

James Seuser

Miss Helen stressed penmanship, spelling, grammar, sentence diagramming and creative writing as well as the three "R's". After lunch she read from her Nancy Drew mysteries book... We put on plays and music programs during the holidays, and made all the decorations ourselves. I suspect Miss Helen bought the materials out of her small salary.

Dale Ficken

My ancestors (two sets of great-grandparents) were pioneers who helped settle the Lone Star Township. They helped build the church/school known as Lone Star. They all worshipped there, my parents went to school there as well as did my siblings and myself. I was pleased when I was hired to teach there for the years 1946-1947, the last years the school was in operation. Since I was related to all but one student they called me Miss Marjie as Miss Wagner seemed too formal.

Marjorie (Wagner) Niewald

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 10

Lone Star School, District 64
Bison vicinity, Rush County, Kansas

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### **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 10 & Photos

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Lone Star School, District 64 Bison vicinity, Rush County, Kansas

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

One square acre in the South East corner of the South West quarter of the South East quarter of Section Number thirty-two (32) in Township Number seventeen (17) South Range Number Seventeen (17) West of the Sixth P.M. in the county of Rush and State of Kansas.

#### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property includes the land historically associated with Lone Star School, District 64.

#### PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION

Property Name:

Lone Star School, District 64

Location:

Bison vicinity, Rush County, KS

Photographer:

Sarah Martin

Date:

26 August 2008

Photo 1:

View from southeast. South elevation and vestibule

Photo 2:

View from northeast. North elevation and vestibule

Photo 3:

South elevation windows and storm screens

Photo 4:

View from southeast. South elevation, vestibule and coal shed

Photo 5:

View from northeast. North elevation, vestibule and outhouse

Photo 6:

View from southeast. Playground area with hand-pump well, flagpole, and swing set frame

Photo 7:

View of classroom and entrance from vestibule from west to east

Photo 8:

View of classroom from east to west

Photo 9:

Students' desks

Photo 10:

Inside view of south elevation window

Photo 11:

Classroom tin ceiling

Photo 12:

Extant gas-lighting fixtures