

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93001147

Date Listed: 10/28/93

Thornwood School
Property Name

Sheridan
County

MT
State

Archaeological and Historic Resources
of Sheridan County, Montana MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for 
Signature of the Keeper

11-1-93
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Geographic Location:

The UTM coordinate is revised to read:

13 514840 5381990

Criteria Consideration:

Since the period of significance extends into the 50-year period, criteria consideration G should be checked.

This information was confirmed with Chere Jiusto of the Montana SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1147

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Thornwood School

other name/site number: 24SH748

2. Location

street & number: County Road approximately 17 miles west of Reserve

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: X

city/town: Reserve

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Sheridan code: 091

zip code: 59258

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maull, Jeff MT SHPO 9-9-93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

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

 see continuation sheet
 removed from the National Register

 see continuation sheet

 other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Jeff Maull

Date of Action

10/28/93

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private	Number of Resources within Property	
Category of Property: Building	Contributing	Noncontributing
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0	<u>1</u>	___ building(s)
Name of related multiple property listing: Archaeological and Historic Resources of Sheridan County, Montana	___	___ sites
	___	___ structures
	___	___ objects
	<u>1</u>	___ TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Education: school	Current Functions: Vacant/not in use
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7. Description

Architectural Classification: Other: gable front	Materials: foundation: concrete walls: weatherboard roof: wood shingle
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Narrative Description

The Thornwood School is an abandoned schoolhouse located in a remote, rural location in the far southwest corner of Sheridan County. It is situated about 17 miles west of Reserve and just two miles north of the line between Sheridan and Roosevelt counties; it lies within the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. The general region is characterized by rugged hills and is mostly used for rangeland. The school is on a gentle slope trending toward Wolf Creek, about one-half mile northwest. It stands just to the west of a graveled county road and is oriented towards the east.

The Thornwood School operated at this location from about 1932 until it closed in 1946. The building reportedly was once accompanied by an outside coal bin, two outhouses, and a playground.¹ No trace of these auxiliary facilities remain; the former schoolyard has been incorporated into the surrounding hay field. The schoolhouse, however, remains as constructed except for deterioration due to years of abandonment. It retains physical and historical integrity.

The one-story schoolhouse is a wood-frame gable-roofed building (26 feet east-west by 18 feet north-south) with a small gabled wing (8 feet east-west by 14 feet north-south) on the east end towards the north. The school contains a single classroom; the gabled wing is divided into a one-room teacherage at the north end and an entry chamber in the south. The building rests on a concrete foundation, is sheathed with clapboard siding, and has plain corner boards at the wall junctures. The gable roofs have boxed eaves with molded cornice trim, flared fascias, wood-shingling, and metal ridge caps. A tall brick chimney protrudes from the east end of the main roof; it is positioned on the building's north interior wall within the classroom. The building is accessed by a five-paneled door located on the south wall of the gabled wing; the door leads into the entry chamber. The only windows into the classroom are a band of six, two-over-two double-hung windows situated on the south wall towards the east. A four-over-four double-hung window in the entry chamber is located on the gabled wing's east wall towards the south. The teacherage has two small square windows: one in the gabled wing's east wall towards the north and the other in the north wall. All windows have wood sash and board surrounds; most no longer hold glass.

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The three-room building interior has softwood floors and trim, wood wainscotting with particle board above on the walls, and particle board ceilings -- mostly fallen in. A five-paneled door connects the entry and classroom and a narrow, two-panel door leads from the classroom into the teacherage. The classroom has attached blackboards on the north and west walls and a small closet at the east end of the north wall. Scattered in front of the closet on the floor are numerous 1930-era textbooks, several inscribed with "School District 69."

NOTE

1. Magnus Aasheim, comp., Sheridan's Daybreak: II (Aberdeen, South Dakota: North Plains Press, 1984): 811.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Areas of Significance: Education
Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: c.1932-1946

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1932

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Thornwood School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criteria A and C. The building is historically significant as a representative example of the dozens of rural schoolhouses to be constructed in Sheridan County during the first four decades of the twentieth century. School facilities typically were one of the first vestiges of civilization established in a newly settled region. The need for rural schools was especially critical for an agricultural society, since few farmers or ranchers could afford to board their children at nearby towns to attend school. In addition, children were often needed at home to help with farm work. Rural schools allowed farm children to receive an education while letting them remain at home to contribute to the family's work force in times of need. The school building often served as a center for local social and community activities as well.

The building is also architecturally significant as an excellent example of rural school design in northeastern Montana. The building's size, configuration, and type and level of architectural detailing are all typical of the building form, and the school exists in 1992 with virtually no non-historic structural alterations. Small rural schools similar to this were ubiquitous features on the historic Sheridan County landscape; by the 1930s, one or more rural schools operated in nearly every township in the county, and other schools existed in the platted townsites. While the total number of rural school buildings which once existed in Sheridan County is not known, there were certainly over 60; fewer than half still remain.

Historical Information

The Thornwood School was established in the mid 1920s by Sheridan County School District No. 69. At the time, District 69 operated the Wanso School in the next township to the west; presumably a second school was required because new settlement had caused overcrowding of the Wanso School. Designated as District 69A, the Thornwood School was probably also intended for children living just across the county line, as it took on the name of the "Thornwood" ranch located nearby in Roosevelt County. For the first several years, the Thornwood School held instruction at the James Michels farmstead; Hazel Michels taught the school's first term.¹

The existing Thornwood School building was apparently constructed in 1932. In October of that year, School District 69 acquired from Paul and Antinina Andrienas an acre of land located two miles north of the Michels farm. The deed recording the transfer noted that the acre was intended for the "...location and operation of a school house and yard..." Additionally, it stipulated that the land was to revert back to the Andrienas family, "... if the schoolhouse is removed there from."²

The Thornwood School's new schoolhouse opened for the 1932-33 term, with Clarence "Dutch" Boe as teacher. The schoolhouse held terms for the next 14 years except for 1941. During this time, it also served as a gathering place for community events such as socials, carnivals, and dances. Its doors were finally shut in 1946, as the region's declining population reduced the rural schools which were necessary. Eventually, School Districts 69 and 69A were consolidated with District 7 in Medicine Lake.³

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NOTES

1. United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, "Thornwood Ranch, Montana," 7.5 Minute Series Topographic Map, Provisional Edition, 1983; Magnus Aasheim, comp., Sheridan's Daybreak: II (Aberdeen, South Dakota: North Plains Press, 1984): 811.
2. Warranty Deed from Paul and Antinina Andrienas to School District 69, filed 7 October 1932, Deed Book 264, page 275, Office of the Clerk and Recorder, Sheridan County Courthouse, Plentywood, Montana.
3. Ibid.; Sheridan's Daybreak II, 811; and manuscript record books of former school districts and manuscript list of former county school teachers, on file at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, Sheridan County Courthouse, Plentywood, Montana.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Aasheim, Magnus, comp.. Sheridan's Daybreak II. Aberdeen, South Dakota: North Plains Press, 1984.
Sheridan County Courthouse, Plentywood, Montana. Office of the Clerk and Recorder. Deed Book 264.
Sheridan County Courthouse, Plentywood, Montana. Office of the Superintendent of Schools. Manuscript record books of former school districts and manuscript list of former county school teachers.
United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior. "Thornwood Ranch, Montana." 7.5 Minute Series Topographic Map, Provisional Edition, 1983.

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 - Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	13	514840	5382990

Legal Location: Section 20, 33N, 53E

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary begins at a point on the east boundary line of Section 20, T33N, R53E, which is 41 feet south of the southern wall of the nominated building. This point is approximately 250 feet north of the southeastern corner of Section 20. The boundary then proceeds 100 feet west, 100 feet north, 100 feet east, and 100 feet south to the point of beginning. The school is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20, 33N, 53E, M.P.M.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the nominated building and the immediately-surrounding land. It does not include the entire historic school property, since no other historic features remain on the land, and the surrounding property is now used for hay cultivation.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary McCormick and Mark Hufstetler
organization: Renewable Technologies, Inc. date: September 1, 1992
street & number: 511 Metals Bank Building telephone: 406/782-0494
city or town: Butte state: MT zip code: 59701

Property Owner

name/title: Charles Andrienas
city or town: Reserve state: MT zip code: 59258

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Additional Documentation/Photos

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Index to Photographs

Photographer: Mark Hufstetler

Date: August 1991

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Direction Facing</u>
1	East and south sides of the school house; gabled wing housing the teacherage and entry chamber is in the foreground	West-northwest
2	East and south sides	North-northwest
3	South and west sides	Northeast
4	Interior view of northeast corner of the classroom showing the door to the entry chamber at far right, the door to the teacherage near center, the closet at the far left, and the textbooks scattered in the foreground	Northeast
5	Interior view of the northwest corner of the classroom showing blackboards to the north and west walls	Northwest