United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 2 3 1986 date entered

For NPS use only

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Nam	10					12
historic Di	strict School	No. 92				
and/or common	Louisburg P	ublic Sc	hool			
2. Loca	ation					
street & number	· First Stre	et at T	hird Avenue]	N/A not for publication
city, town Lo	ouisburg		N/A vicinity o	f		
state Minne	sota	code	22 co	unty La	ac qui Parle	code 073
3. Clas	sificatio	n				
Category X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public X_ private both Public Acquisit N/A in process being consid	lered	Status occupied work in progr Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestric no	d	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	 museum park private residence religious scientific transportation x other: storage
4. Own	er of Pro	pert	У			
name	Gordon Letrud					
street & number	N/A					
city, town Lo	uisburg		N/A_ vicinity of	f	state	Minnesota 56254
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courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Lac qu	i Parle County	y Court	chouse	
street & number	600 Sixth	Street				
city, town	Madison				state	Minnesota 56256
6. Rep	resentat	ion iı	n Existin	g Si	urveys	
Minneso	ta Statewide			<u> </u>	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
title Historic	Sites Survey		nas thi	is proper	ty been determined el	igible? yesX_ no
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depository for su	urvey records Sta	te Histo	oric Preservat	tion Of	fice, Fort Snell	ing History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one		
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<u> X ;good </u>	YAM ruins	altered	moved	date	N/A
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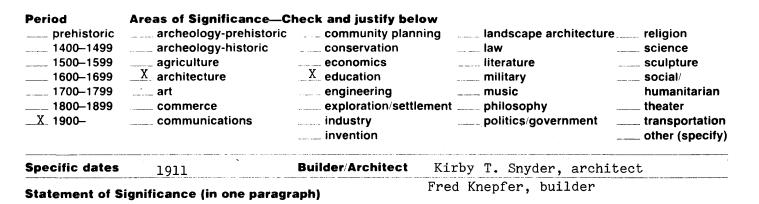
Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Louisburg Public School, constructed in 1911, is located on First Street at the north edge of Louisburg, a tiny town in northern Lac qui Parle County. The two story building is a good example of Victorian school design and was constructed by Fred Knepfer based on designs by Kirby T. Snyder.

The school has an unusual symmetrical design and is faced with soft brown stretcher bonded brick with concrete trim. Rising above the southeast corner of the building is a rectangular woodframe bell tower faced with fishscale shingles, with a hipped roof, flagpole, and rounded arched belfry openings with simple wood balustrades. The main entrance consists of a set of double leaf doors beneath a fanlight transom, recessed within a rounded arched opening. The rounded arch is topped by a raised brick arch and a concrete panel reading "Public School". The main facade and six bay sidewalls have tall, narrow segmental arched 1/1 sash and brick dentils line the cornice.

The school was originally designed to house two grade school classrooms on the first story and two high school classrooms on the second story. The school is intact and in good condition. It is presently privately owned and used for storage purposes.

8. Significance



The Louisburg Public School, constructed in 1911, is historically and architecturally significant as one of west central Minnesota's best examples of Victorian public school design and represents the efforts of small rural Minnesota communities to independently provide public school facilities in the early twentieth century before rural schools statewide were consolidated in the 1960's.

The Louisburg Public School was constructed during the summer of 1911 to replace a small school building which was located on Block 6 of the village. The school was designed by Kirby T. Snyder and constructed by Fred Knepfer, about whom little is known. The school is a good example of the efforts of a small community like Louisburg (present population about 50) to provide good quality public school facilities for its children and was designed to house both grade school and high school classrooms.

Shortly after the building was constructed it was the subject of efforts by local residents to prohibit the sale of liquor in the community. The school originally stood outside the city limits, but prohibitionists in Louisburg succeeded in expanding the city boundaries by election to include the school and then declared the sale of liquor from the town's nearby saloon illegal because of the saloon's close proximity to the school. The saloon was temporily moved to a cornfield south of Louisburg until the matter was settled legally.

The Louisburg Public School served the community until the 1960's when rural schools in the county were consolidated and school children were transported by bus elsewhere. The school was included in a fifteen month historic sites survey of seven west central Minnesota counties conducted in 1983-84 by the State Historic Preservation Office. The survey staff determined that the school was a good example of Victorian school design, that its somewhat outdated form was typical of the provincial nature of many small west central Minnesota communities, and that it was one of the best examples of Victorian public school architecture standing in the seven county survey area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bellingham Times, August 10, 1911.

Willand, Jon. Unpublished research on the Louisburg School. Jon Willand, 145 Malcolm Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Section number _____ Page _____

Note: These changes apply to District School No. 92 in Lac qui Parle County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 86001348

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Lac qui Parle

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Louisburg School

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

nuia m. archabal

JUN 1 7 1988

Nina M. Archabal State Historic Preservation Officer Date