

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **MAY 23 1986**

date entered

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

1. Name

historic District School No. 92

and/or common Louisburg Public School

2. Location

street & number First Street at Third Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Louisburg N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Lac qui Parle code 073

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property

name Gordon Letrud

street & number N/A

city, town Louisburg N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56254

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lac qui Parle County Courthouse

street & number 600 Sixth Street

city, town Madison state Minnesota 56256

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983-84 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date

N/A

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 Knepper 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, flag-pole, 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

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1911 **Builder/Architect** Kirby T. Snyder, architect

Fred Knepfer, builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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 temporarily 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.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.77 acres

Quadrangle name Correll, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	4	7	2	2	3	2	0	5	0	0	15	3	16	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the SE corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, T120, R44, then running North 26.67 rods then West 12 rods then South 26.67 rods then East 12 rods to the place of beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger/ Field Assistant

State Historic Preservation Office

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date January 1985

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/16/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Entered in the
National Register

date 6-20-86

for Alluvial Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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:

Nina M. Archabal

**Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988
Date