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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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Old Settler's Pavilion
Other names/site number Stump Lake Park Pavilion

2. Location

street & number 63 Pavilion Road not for publication
city of town Pekin vicinity
State North Dakota code ND county Nelson code 063 zip code 58361

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 forth 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. 5-5-10
Signature of certifying official - Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. Date
State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

| | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register | <u><i>Jana Nechtard</i></u> | <u>6/12/10</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (explain:) | _____ | _____ |

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal
- private

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | Objects |
| | | buildings |
| 1 | | Total |

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: music facility

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: music facility

SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

Other: recreational pavilion

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: STUCCO

roof: METAL: steel

other:

Old Settler's Pavilion

Nelson County, North

Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

See continuation sheets.

Narrative Description

See continuation sheets.

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Summary Paragraph:

The Old Settler's Pavilion, also known by those who frequent Stump Lake Park as the "Pavilion", is located in rural Nelson County. The recreational Pavilion resides on a wooded peninsula along the shores of Stump Lake. The Pavilion was placed on this point of land and its elevation, above the waters of Stump Lake, to assure that breezes across the point would have a cooling effect for Pavilion activities in the prime summer season when gatherings were scheduled. The building is surrounded by green grass and mature trees with water a short distance away on three sides. Overall dimensions of the Pavilion are 75'6" by 140'7". The Pavilion is in excellent condition and has not been moved or changed dramatically. Immediately northeast of the Pavilion is a café, restroom, miniature golf course, play-ground, picnic areas, picnic shelters, 100 camp sites, tennis court, three ball fields, bait shop, and a basketball court. At the park's entrance, the Stump Lake Pioneer Village provides an important piece of history with 10 historic buildings and welcomes visitors to the park. Stump Lake Park lies in the middle of native woodlands, along the shores of Stump Lake. The other facilities are not a part of the application, but show the type of setting in which the Pavilion is located.

Description:

Nelson County is decidedly rural, which adds to the mystique of country music pavilions as a significant form of recreation and cultural celebration. The county has always been a relatively small, sparsely populated county, about 3.7 people per square mile according to the 2000 U.S. Census. Six small towns (the largest of which is Lakota, the county seat, with a population of 789 persons) are within 30 miles of the Pavilion. As entertainment venues, country dance pavilions like this one were typically located a "respectful distance" outside of small towns that might have had their own, established multi-purpose civic auditoriums.

Stump Lake, the body of water that surrounds Stump Lake Park on three of its sides, can be found near the center of Nelson County. The name "Stump Lake" results from the erratically-fluctuating lake level of the Devils Lake/Stump Lake basin, which at times floods out very large and mature stands of timber that later re-emerges from the flooded lake bottom. In modern times, the lake level has fluctuated from a comfortable lake level of 1440' in pioneer times, to a low point of about 1388' in 1950, to a record-setting high water mark of 1451' in the present day. With the basin's outlet into the Sheyenne River obstructed, the valley has historically gone through major low and high water cycles that are extraordinarily problematic for surrounding property owners. Sixty feet of uncontrolled elevation change in a large body of water would be problematic anywhere, especially so for land uses surrounding the Devils Lake/Stump Lake watershed. In 1934, State Engineer R. G. Kennedy reported that Stump Lake is the east end of a pre-glacial valley connected with Devils Lake.

During low water periods, oak trees grew as large as 16 inches in diameter, and had as many as 116 annular rings. The next wet cycle, water partially or completely covered the trees, killing them. These trees lost their footing in the lake bottom and washed ashore, or were left high and dry as the lake receded. When the first settlers arrived the lake was receding. There was no longer an outlet into the Sheyenne River, nor a permanent stream supplying the basin from Devils Lake. In 1911, pioneer Alf Eastgate sent a picture of dead timber on the shore to Arnold Mickelson, head of the State Historical Society.¹

Old Settler's Stump Lake Park has been a popular recreational area since its inception in 1920. The Pavilion was among the first buildings built in the park and is the mainstay of recreation in the park. The Pavilion is the only original building still standing. The park has always been the pride of Nelson County, and the Pavilion has been considered an integral part of the history of Nelson County.

¹ Nelson County History (1983); p. 424

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Description (continued):

The Pavilion is unusual in terms of its construction features, as well as for its place in the social fabric of Nelson County. The foundation of the Pavilion is concrete, the exterior walls are stucco, and the roof is standing seam metal. The structure can be described as post and beam with modified Howe trusses to frame the main area of the building. The main area of the building is higher than the sides. Dimensions of this taller, story-and-a-half ballroom element are 51'9" by 116'10". There are 80 clerestory fixed pane windows around the top part of the Pavilion emitting natural light into the dance floor. Architecturally, this clerestory is truly quite remarkable in the extent to which it is "pierced" by windows that enable the raised longspan roof to essentially "float" above the perimeter column line. The higher area is surrounded by a lower, enclosed veranda that is raftered and has an outer perimeter bearing wall. The veranda has 28 large operating windows with window covers that can be opened during hot weather. The veranda has a double hip roof. The corners of the Pavilion roof are chamfered with a door at each corner. There is also a door in the middle of each side of the Pavilion. A ramp, built in June of 2006, is located on the southeast side for Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) compliance.

The Pavilion has a small, primitive basement at the northeast end. The floor of the main area, which is the dance floor, is maple laid in a square pattern with white painted rails around it. The 55' X 110' dance floor does not have any posts or columns. The interior is exposed, unfinished structural members. At the main entrance is a counter with racks of roller skates behind it. There is a stage with a hand painted scenic backdrop behind it at the southwest end. A fireplace is located at the northeast end. The outer area can be opened on three sides to screened windows. The large, custom-built "fold up" window covers can be opened easily with the aid of an ingenious system of balancing counter weights to enable the entire dance floor to be opened to cross ventilation. This unusual horizontal pivoting, center hinge configuration operates along the lines of an aircraft hanger door and enables the entire side window to be fully opened for ventilation without any obstructive awning shutter. There is a small platform or elevated "crow's nest" that doubles as a balcony and stage area along one side. A second story apartment was created in the northeast end in 1980.

The park property and pavilion structure are in excellent condition having been maintained by the Nelson County Park Board. The main structure continues to remain nearly unchanged since its establishment. The only major change to the main structure was the construction of a second story apartment on the northeast end in 1980. The exterior is unchanged except for the installation of a metal roof. A cement pad has been added outside at the main entrance. The Pavilion has been maintained very well in recent years. The Pavilion is an excellent example of an architecturally distinctive recreational pavilion from the "Roaring 20's" era that exists essentially unaltered in the present day.

Name of Property

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1920 - 1974

Significant Dates

1920

1922

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Alex Walquist

William Comeau

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is from the construction of the pavilion until 1974, when maintenance of the pavilion was reestablished and improvements were started.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

Name of Property

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

See continuation sheets.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

See continuation sheets.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

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 Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: **Nelson County Courthouse**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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Significance:

Throughout its history, the Devils Lake-Stump Lake basin has been promoted for a wide variety of recreational uses. Wamduska Township and adjacent Stump Lake was the site of ferry boats and commercial pleasure crafts, the impressive Wamduska Hotel (demolished in 1954) hosted large hunting and fishing parties. In the 1920s, access to the Pavilion was possible via the cruise boat "Minnetonka". Other passenger-carrying pleasure boats also served Stump Lake from the town of Tolna, to the south.

The phenomenon of rural dance pavilions as a social gathering place in the upper Midwest and Great Plains may be surprising to some historians. The country dance ballroom seems to be an extension of the earlier custom of barn dances. Generally promoted by private operators as a venue for seasonal recreation, the building type is not narrowly connected with any one ethnic nationality. There are notable examples of country dance pavilions still surviving in Wisconsin and Minnesota, but the main concentrations would seem to be in the Dakotas and Texas.² As an inexpensive place to have a good time, wind down from a hard week of work, and meet one's neighbors, the buildings are repositories for local memories. Locals generally traveled from a 75 mile radius; and not uncommonly on gravel roads. At the pavilion site, recreation often extended out into the cars and pickup trucks. Decline in popularity of these cultural centers is likely attributed to "people not joining in", together with increasing awareness and enforcement of "driving under the influence of alcohol" laws.

The Pavilion has been a center for entertainment and recreation since it was built by offering a variety of activities, including dances and roller skating. It has been very important to the social and cultural fabric of Nelson County because of the many events held there, including speeches, meetings, and art camps. The amazing architecture of the recreational pavilion is rare in North Dakota.³ The large girders that support the main part of the Pavilion are impressive in architectural terms. They make it possible to construct a large dance floor with no supporting posts in the middle.

According to the *Nelson County Arena* newspaper, on July 10, 1919, the Nelson County Old Settler's Association was organized.⁴ Approximately two hundred people met at the picnic grounds at Stump Lake. J. P. Lamb was chosen president and a committee was appointed to purchase a site suitable for a park that was to be owned by the people of Nelson County. Lamb and his successors are well-known in the Nelson County area and throughout North Dakota for early land development and for their involvement with successful small-town banking that continues to the present day. On December 23, 1919, the Nelson County Old Settler's Association met and selected a building site on Foster's Point and dedicated the park to the memory of World War I military veterans.

² A search of the National Register database turned up one good example at Riverside Park in Center City, NE. In addition to Stump Lake Pavilion, in the Dakotas, some of the better known historical examples on the touring band circuit were the White Eagle Ballroom (New Effington, SD); Herb Johnson's Barn (near Arthur-Hunter, ND); The Curve (near Mott, ND); Brush Lake Pavilion (near Mercer, ND); Bachelor's Grove (near Park River-Grafton, ND); Spiritwood Pavilion (near Jamestown, ND); "Rainbow Gardens" (in Carrington, ND); "Bill Haines Field of Dreams" at Red Willow Lake Pavilion, advertised "between Pekin and Binford" (ND, of course). Surprisingly little is documented about these historic properties, even as many are disappearing from the landscape.

³ The pavilion structure is akin to large warehouse structures, aircraft hangers, armories, arenas, and auditoriums constructed in North Dakota's larger cities in the 1930's. At that time, architects and engineers were approaching longspan design from a scientific aspect. What is remarkable about finding such sophisticated framing on a rural pavilion 10-years earlier is that it appears to have been accomplished with little or no scientifically-based engineering analysis.

⁴ *Nelson County Arena* (July 10, 1919); p. 1.

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Significance (continued):

The Nelson County Old Settler's Association was incorporated on April 19, 1920, and planned to sell 2,000 shares of the park for \$25.00 each. After the park land was purchased, the first order of business was to clear the brush and down timber. Volunteers from the entire county showed up on May 14, 1920, to accomplish this huge feat. The first Nelson County Play Day at the new park was held on May 31, 1920. The event was pronounced highly successful despite unfavorable weather.

In 1920, fifteen thousand people attended the Fourth of July Celebration and dance. Also, that same year, Fisher-Shipp' Concert Company of Chicago entertained with two full programs. In 1921, the Luther College Concert Band, from Decorah, Iowa, played for the Fourth of July celebration. Bowery type dances continued until 1922 to promote the park and the purchase of shares. The phenomenon of "Bowery Dances" originated as open air dances on a hard surface dance floor, in the open under the trees. It later evolved to be a highly promoted form of public dance with special appeal in the Dakotas. Despite vigorous promotion and the enthusiasm of county residents, the investor stock sold slowly. As a result, the construction of the Pavilion was delayed for more than a year.

The next order of business was to build a pavilion. Accounts of the details of this process differ slightly. An article by Frank Seebart in the *History of Nelson County* affirms that the contract for the construction of the Pavilion was awarded to William Comeau of Lakota. Other accounts attribute the construction of the Pavilion to Lewis A. "Alex" Walquist, who operated a well-experienced and capable construction company from his hometown in nearby Pekin. Walquist is also believed to be the builder of the Red Willow Lake Pavilion, approximately 20-miles from Stump Lake Pavilion. The Red Willow Park Pavilion is almost identical to the Stump Lake Pavilion in most respects except that Red Willow was clad in shiplap wood siding, whereas Stump Lake Pavilion was stuccoed. Construction of the pavilion was finally completed in September of 1922. The Old Settler's Association proclaimed the Pavilion to be the finest in the state. It is unique in that the dance floor has no interior supporting posts or columns. Craftsmen scraped every square inch of the maple floor with sharp-edged glass panels to assure its perfect smoothness for dance gliding.

As assessed by architecture professor Steve Martens of North Dakota State University, the column-free longspan construction of the Stump Lake dance pavilion is a noteworthy example of local ingenuity.⁵ Construction of the Pavilion was accomplished by the builder using empirical methods, but certainly not without design sophistication or experience with longspan structures, quite possibly based on prior experience with agricultural structures. It may also be noteworthy that the nearby Red Willow Lake Pavilion was constructed at nearly the same time, and in a remarkably similar manner but with supporting posts in the middle of the dance floor. The word "ambitious" comes immediately to mind in describing the construction of these two recreational facilities, just 20-miles apart. Today, the truss-girder design employed on the pavilions is illustrated in engineering and construction textbooks, but at the time the Stump Lake Pavilion was built, the engineering determinations would have been made "by the seat of the pants" based on the builder's prior experience.⁶

⁵ Martens, Steve. Written communication with the author, February 2, 2010

⁶ See, for example, Figure 4.25 excerpt from Allen, Edward and Joseph Iano. *Fundamentals of Building Construction Materials & Methods* (Hoboken, NJ; John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; 2009) It may be relevant that the Nelson County-Griggs County area is notable for the number of unusually large barn buildings there, dating from the turn of the century. Structurally, the Pavilion is not too dissimilar from the way a lumberyard storage building might have been built. Far from following only utilitarian precedents, though, the Stump Lake Pavilion is elegant in its details.

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Significance (continued):

The 55' x 110' dance floor is framed with eight parallel, longspan truss girders, which in turn support an orderly and well-defined hierarchy of 6 x 6 timbered purlins and sloped rafters. Diagonal chords of the trussed girders are of 6 x 6 timbers; top and bottom chords are laminated composite members of three 2 x 8 dimensioned framing lumber for added efficiency in accomplishing their overall length. Vertical suspension rods connect the bottom chord with the sloping top members, and steel connector plates joint the ends of the trussed girders. Sloped struts and dimension lumber braces connect the girder ends with the tops of 10-inch square timber columns, adding lateral stiffness where the clerestory columns occur. The beauty of this structural frame stems from the fact that there is essentially nothing excessive or redundant about it. It is pure, honest, and architecturally as well-proportioned as most church sanctuaries.

The vastness of the prairie fostered a feeling of isolation. The Old Settler's Association thought that it was important to build a place for meetings, social events, and recreation. Only the basement and bowery type floor were built within the first year, because the sale of shares was limited. During the first summer, despite limited facilities, large crowds attended various activities. According to the *Nelson County History Book*⁷, in 1920, the Million Dollar Band and spell-binding political orator James Francis T. O'Connor provided a dual attraction for six thousand to seven thousand people at Stump Lake Park. O'Connor was a prominent figure in liberal North Dakota politics who was later appointed U.S. Comptroller of the Currency by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The silver-tongued orator William Jennings Bryan, a frequent aspiring presidential candidate, drew an estimated ten thousand people that same year. Bryan – a recurrent candidate for national office, one-time U.S. Secretary of State (1913-1915), and political dealmaker – held the large crowd riveted with his oratory about populism, prohibition, and perhaps anachronistically, his attack on Darwinism and evolution based on his direct involvement with the pending "Scopes Monkey Trial" shortly before his death in 1925.⁸ It is assumed that J. P. Lamb, the Old Settler's Association President and a staunch Democrat, was instrumental in procuring the services of Mr. Bryan.

The Pavilion was used as a meeting place for the Old Settler's Association and the Fifty Year Club, which was a club of pioneers. The phenomenon of Old Settler's Associations was an upper Midwestern version of the better-known national Chautauqua. (An official "Chautauqua", part of the national series, was held nearby in Devils Lake for more than 30 years.) Rural residents may well recall the importance of annual "Old Settlers Reunions"; a kind of homecoming for residents of the rural countryside. In the case of Nelson County, the "old settlers" were represented by original settlers to the county, most of whom were in residency since 1898 and 1899 and including 52 who settled in Territorial times as early as 1878 to 1883.⁹

⁷ *Nelson County History* (1983); pp. 426-428

⁸ Bryan opposed Darwinism for two reasons. First he believed that what he considered a materialistic account of the descent of man through evolution undermined the Bible. Second, he saw neo-Darwinism or Social Darwinism as a great evil force in the world promoting hatreds and conflicts, especially the World War. In his famous Chautauqua lecture, "The Prince of Peace", Bryan warned the theory of evolution could undermine the foundations of morality. However, he concluded, "While I do not accept the Darwinian theory I shall not quarrel with you about it." Coletta, *William Jennings Bryan* vol. 3 chapter 8.

⁹ *Nelson County Arena* (June 17, 1922); p. 1

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Significance (continued):

Political rallies were also popular at the Pavilion, as were public speakers on progressivism, community improvement, and culture. Featured speakers from both ends of the political spectrum included former governor Hon. L.B. Hanna, U.S. Senators Gerald P. Nye and Lynn J. Frazier, and Congressmen William Lemke and Usher L. Burdick, all addressing civic themes. Agricultural interest events included a visit by Oklahoman "Alfalfa Bill" Murray and promotions of the "Dollar Wheat Movement", that encouraged farmers to withhold wheat from the market until it brought a dollar a bushel. Speeches were delivered at the Pavilion by two academic Deans from the University of North Dakota and by President Coulter of the Agricultural College (NDAC). Many of the speeches were delivered from the "crow's nest" of the Pavilion.

In 1936, the Old Settler's Association sold the park to Nelson County, likely due to a lack of funding. Deterioration of the Pavilion began during the Great Depression, followed by the drought years when the water level dropped rapidly. The lake became unfit for swimming. The Depression era and World War II produced sociocultural changes in community interest in large public dances.¹⁰ Furthermore, large well-appointed auditoriums constructed in several nearby towns under New Deal work relief programs tended to draw some of the energy away from rural park pavilions.

The roots of musical performance run very deep in northeastern North Dakota. The Million Dollar Band, which performed in the Old Settler's Pavilion several times in the 1920s, had an especially interesting local connection with the Stump Lake/Lakota community. Among the young people of Lakota who later went on to prominence, Harold Bachman graduated high school from Lakota and then attended North Dakota Agricultural College in Fargo (at that time NDAC). The agricultural college, which was later renamed North Dakota State University, was renowned for its early military bands, led by "Doc" Putnam. After attending college, Harold Bachman served in the armed forces during the Great War (WWI), and while overseas he recruited from among his army buddies for a band that came to be known as The Million Dollar Band. The name was suggested by General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing, after he remarked that Bachman's band "was worth a million dollars to the moral of my soldiers."¹¹

Summer-season public dances at scattered rural venues are a prominent cultural-recreational phenomenon in the Upper Midwest and Great Plains states.

Eccentricity and idiosyncratic building designs for dance pavilions, casinos, and resorts all defy the practical, prosaic side of human nature. On the Plains, such buildings provide a whimsical diversion from austere realities of daily life. The principal purposes of these recreational and cultural buildings were to bring entertainment from the outside and to feed fantasies of local residents. Such buildings often embody outlandish and unexpected styles like the Moderne, in otherwise pragmatic community settings. Dance pavilions or ballrooms (well-known to locals by names like the Cotillion Ballroom, Bachelors Grove, Red Willow Lake Pavilion, Sokol Park Hall, White Eagle and Archer Ballrooms, and Rainbow Gardens) were places where residents of the Plains gathered to escape isolation and celebrate music and dance as forms of social communality. Whether catering to rock-and-roll, polka, or country-western, these buildings (and the extent to which they are locally and regionally known) tell us something of the cultural aspirations and recreational diversions of people who lived in isolated Plains settings.¹²

¹⁰ Seebart, "Stump Lake - Wamduska" in *Nelson County History* (1983); pp. 424-428

¹¹ Souvenir Booklet, "Lakota's 75 Years: Diamond Jubilee, 1958"; p. 66

¹² Martens, Steve and R. Ramsay, "Architecture as a Reflection of Great Plains Culture", in *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains* (Greenwood Press); p. 16

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Significance (continued):

For 40 years, huge crowds attended the weekly summer dances at the Pavilion, especially when familiar talent like the famous Fletcher Brothers Orchestra performed (from Shelby, MT by way of Grand Forks, ND). Music was an especially popular form of entertainment among the mix of Norwegian, German, and Scotch-Irish pioneers who settled in northeastern North Dakota. A great many successful professional touring bands emanated from the local population, and instrumental music remains important in high schools there in the present day.¹³ Before the depression, traditional brass bands were established and thriving in most of the surrounding towns, as were fully-instrumented military-type bands, including the North Dakota State Band from Pekin (disbanded in 1927). Other popular local bands included the Johnson Brothers, Melody Boys Orchestra, Cecil Birder's Operatic Review, Ctibor Orchestra from Fargo. An especially popular, national repeat booking at this time was Jack Holt's Davenport Hotel house band from Spokane, WA, featuring his daughter Miss Darryl Holt, specializing in tap-toe and aerobic dance. The Concordia College Band from Moorhead, MN was another major event booking in July of 1930. Both the Luther College and Concordia College symphonic bands included musical talent recruited from local Nelson County communities.

Later, in the 1930s and 1940s, regionally-known "Big Bands" (such as the Royal Scandinavians, Cliff Foreng and the Playboys, The Albert Enstad Band, Sam and the City Fellers, Thorstein Skarming, and the Stordahls) predominated. Though these local groups will not be familiar names outside the locality of towns surrounding the Pavilion, many other nationally-known Big Bands were booked at the Pavilion.

In the 1940s and 1950s, large crowds attended the weekly summer dances at the Pavilion, especially when popular groups like the Fletcher Brothers Orchestra or the WDAY War Bond Tour Group performed. Square dancing and polka-band accordion music was also popular. The dance crowd normally separated itself informally by community, with each nearby town regularly occupying the same section of the Pavilion. Young men "cruised" various areas of the Pavilion, going from "town to town" seeking dancing partners. Young women attending from Lakota, Michigan, Pekin, Tolna, McVille, Doyon, and Mapes also liked the arrangement since their out-of-town admirers always knew where to find them. Dancing regularly continued in the Pavilion until 2 o'clock in the morning.

During the 1950s and 1960s, roller skating became one of the feature attractions. The first roller skating events in the Pavilion actually began as early as 1932. The Pavilion was the perfect roller skating rink because of its wide, smooth dance floor with no obstacles to skate into. In 1951, the Forx Roller Skating club from Grand Forks, ND presented a "Roller Revue", which involved dancing with roller skates.¹⁴ Many children and adults have fond memories of roller skating at the Pavilion. Roller skating was a family-friendly activity in the Pavilion that accommodated parents and children at the same time. It was also an opportunity for courtship among the younger people. Other sporting events inside the Pavilion included boxing "cards" and at least one incidence of indoor basketball.

¹³ An Informative anecdote that cropped up in research of county and town history books dealt with the Lakota, ND band traveling to Grand Forks for a state band competition. When one automobile carrying four key first-chair players was stranded, the band simply performed without them and went on to win the district and state competition. "Lakota 75-Years Diamond Jubilee"; p. 66

¹⁴ "Roller Review", ephemera from the Grand Forks Roller Skating Club (1951), in the collections of the Nelson County Historical Society.

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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8

Page 8

Significance (continued):

Locally, a close relationship was maintained with local radio broadcasters (like WDAY, KDLR, and KFYZ radio) promoting live entertainment with timely radio spots beginning in the mid-1930s. The relationship between live performance and broadcast radio performance was especially close during the 1940s and 1950s.

In the early days of radio, most regional radio stations expanded their programming by covering "live spots" with musical performance from remote pavilion locations. Back in those days, radio stations of the magnitude of WDAY, of which there were relatively few, had their own stables of regional celebrities who regularly performed on the air and went out into the hinterlands on weekends to perform and hand out autographed photographs. [Frank] Scott [and the Vagabonds] had become a member of the DAY family in 1944, following a brief stint as a big band arranger in Cleveland. He was quickly named the station's music supervisor, a position he would hold for the next 12 years.¹⁵

In the 1960s, the Big Bands were superceded by rock-and-roll groups. There was a resurgence of summer weekend "teen dance" events at rural pavilions throughout the region, resulting from the popularity of rock and roll in the 1960s. Some of the well-known regional and national bands of this era performing at the Pavilion were The Unbelievable Uglies, The Johnny Holm Band, Bobby Vee and the Shadows, and The Trashmen. Other large, traveling rock and roll bands on the pavilion dance circuit were promoted by late night, high power radio broadcast stations like KOMA. No systematic record of bookings has been located for the Pavilion, and only limited ephemera (such as posters) exists. But anecdotal recollections of several generations of longtime Nelson County residents recall that some of the bands well-represented on the Pavilion calendar included, The Roarin' Red Dogs and the Fabulous Flippers, both from Lawrence, KS. A generation of people that attended the pavilion dance circuit in the 1960s will immediately recall the distinctive sound of a Hammond B3 organ being played through the slowly-turning Doppler horns of a Leslie amplifier, accompanying a 12-piece band of amplified guitars and brass instruments. It's a good thing the rural pavilions were well outside of town.

Throughout the history of Stump Lake Park, people held picnics and family reunions in the park. The Pavilion was especially popular for events during inclement weather. The park was actually closed for a few years in the 1970s because no one was willing to lease and operate the concessions. With no maintenance, the Pavilion fell into a state of disrepair. In 1974, Nelson County voters approved a five-year two-mill park levy. With donations from clubs, organizations, every city in Nelson County, businesses, and individuals, the Park Board made comprehensive improvements to the park. In 1980, voters registered approval of the work by passing a permanent three-mill levy to support the park. A café, restroom, playground, picnic shelters, tennis court, basketball court, baseball fields, and campsites were added. The improvements to the Pavilion did not alter the building in any substantial way. As the centerpiece of the park, the Pavilion again became a vital part of the Nelson County rural community.

Today the Pavilion is used quite extensively for a wide variety of musical, recreational, and cultural activities. Wedding dances and wedding receptions held in the Pavilion are very popular. The Nelson County Arts Council hosts an annual Arts Camp at the Pavilion, in which plays are performed by the children from the area. A Safety Camp for kids is an annual event that is held at the Pavilion. The Pavilion is actively used for meetings, reunions, birthday parties, anniversaries, and, of course, roller skating, and public dances. The Pavilion has been an important part of the social and cultural life of the people of Nelson County for many years. There is a tremendous sentimental attachment to the Pavilion for many residents, both past and present. Its long history as a center of recreation in Nelson County has provided a multitude of great memories for many generations. The building embodies local musical culture and the values of rural community.

¹⁵ Jerry Richardson, in *Bison Briefs* (August 1982; v.24.2); p. 1

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

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Name of Property: Old Settler's Pavilion

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Page 9

Significance (continued):

The Old Settler's Pavilion is significant under National Register Criterion A for the broad patterns of local history it reflects in terms of social, cultural, and recreational activities, and because of its association with political rallies and public gatherings. The Pavilion is also significant under National Register Criterion C for its unusual and innovative method of longspan construction. The Pavilion retains a high degree of material integrity and integrity of its setting, both essentially unaltered.

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Name of Property: Old Settler's Pavilion

County and State: Nelson County, North Dakota

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 9

Page 10

Selected References:

Cherny, Robert W. *A Righteous Cause: The Life of William Jennings Bryan* (1994)

Coletta; Paolo E. *William Jennings Bryan* 3 vols. (1964)

Glad, Paul W. *The Trumpet Soundeth: William Jennings Bryan and His Democracy 1896-1912* (1966)

Martens, Steve and Ronald Ramsay. "Rural Architecture", in *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains Region*. (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press; 2004); p.16

Martens, Steve (NDCRS Architectural Historian). Written communication to the author, (February 2, 2010)

Nelson County Arena (July 10, 1919); p.1

Nelson County Arena (weekly issues consulted from 1921 to 1941).

Nelson County History (1983); pp.424-428

Robinson, Elwyn B. *History of North Dakota*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press; (1966).

"Roller Review", ephemera from the Grand Forks Roller Skating Club (1951), in the collections of the Nelson County Historical Society.

Souvenir Booklet, "*Lakota's 75 Years: Diamond Jubilee, 1958*"; (1958)

Lakota....100 Years. 1883 to 1983. Grafton, ND: Associated Printers; (1983); pp.305-311

Mapes, Whitman. *Michigan City North Dakota Centennial, 1883-1983*; pp.11, 259-260

Souvenir booklet; "Pekin Diamond Jubilee; 1906-1981"; pp.11-27, 127-160

"South Dakota Rock and Roll Music Archive" (accessed February 1, 2010)
<http://www.southdakotarockandrollmusicassociation.com/feature/remember.htm>

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | <u>14N</u> Zone | <u>548199</u> Easting | <u>5302092</u> Northing | 3 | <u> </u> Zone | <u> </u> Easting | <u> </u> Northing |
| 2 | <u> </u> Zone | <u> </u> Easting | <u> </u> Northing | 4 | <u> </u> Zone | <u> </u> Easting | <u> </u> Northing |

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)
Boundaries are indicated on the accompanying base map.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
It is the building site of the pavilion.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. J. Davidson
organization Nelson County Park Board date March, 2010
street & number 210 B Ave. W, Ste. 201 telephone 701-247-2463
city or town Lakota state ND zip code 58344-7410
e-mail wdavidso@nd.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Name of Property

Property Ownername Nelson Countystreet & number 210 B Ave. W, Ste 201 telephone 701-247-2463city or town Lakota state ND zip code 58344-7410**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Stump Lake Park Pavilion**City or Vicinity: Pekin****County: Nelson****State: North Dakota****Photographer: Lorna Meidinger****Date Photographed: June 4, 2009****Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- 1 of 11:** South southeast corner
- 2 of 11:** East elevation
- 3 of 11:** West elevation
- 4 of 11:** North elevation
- 5 of 11:** Interior shot facing south
- 6 of 11:** View of roof construction

Photographer: W. J. Davidson**Date Photographed: November 19, 2009**

- 7 of 11:** Rafters and braces facing east.
- 8 of 11:** Large window with cover facing southeast.
- 9 of 11:** Maple floor facing south.
- 10 of 11:** Fireplace facing north.
- 11 of 11:** Roller skates at main entrance facing east.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

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Name of Property: Old Settler's Pavilion

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Section Additional Documentation

Page 11



Sunken Forest

Postcard of the exposed stumps that gave the area its name.

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National Park Service

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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section Additional Documentation

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1926 campers in the park

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

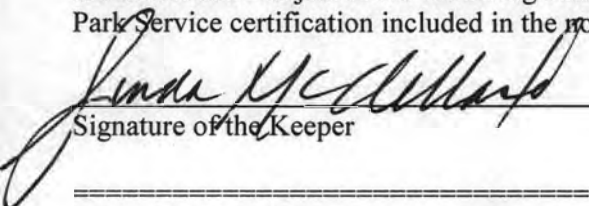
NRIS Reference Number: 10000366

Property Name: Old Settler's Pavilion

County: Nelson State: North Dakota

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.

 _____ June 12, 2010 _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Significance

The Period of Significance is, hereby, revised to end in 1960, since there is no justification for extending it to 1974.

The North Dakota Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Old Settler's Pavilion
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH DAKOTA, Nelson

DATE RECEIVED: 5/04/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/28/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/12/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/18/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000366

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: Y PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Located within Stump Lake Park
the pavilion is significant under Crit. A in
Entertainment/Recreation and Architecture. Built
in 1920 it has served community as a popular
dancing pavilion, music hall, and gathering place
for public events - fun political rallies to meetings
of local organizations. It is also distinctive for its
"unusual and innovative method of
longspan construction" using that
local ingenuity, created
dance floor &
int. elev.
and prefabricated
today's tower
girder design.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept AHC

REVIEWER LM Cellard

DISCIPLINE Just a column-free

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 6/12/10

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y N see attached SLR Y N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Old Settler's Pavilion
Nelson County, ND
Photo 1





Old settler's
Nelson County, ND
Photo 2

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Old Settler's Pavilion
Nelson County, MD
Photo 4





Old Settler's Pavilion
Nelson County, VA
Photo 6

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Old Settler's Pavilion
Nelson County, ND
Photo 7

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NO
SMOKING



Old Settler's Pavilion
Nelson County, ND
Photo 8

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Old Settler's Pavilion
Nelson County, ND
Photo 9

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Old Settler's Pavilion
Nelson County, ND
Photo 10

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Old Settler's Pavilion
Nelson County, MD
Photo 11

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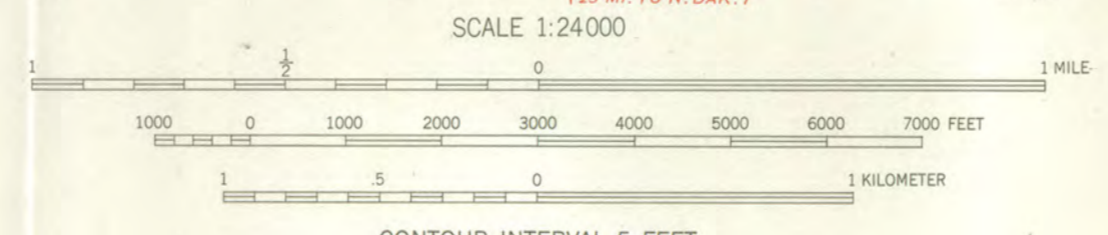
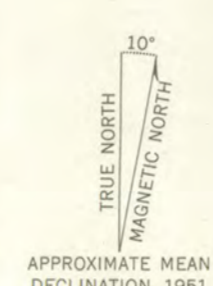
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Old Settler's Pavilion
Nelson County, ND
14 548199 5302092

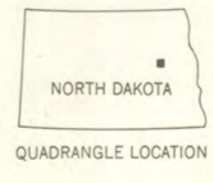


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin Control by USGS and USC&GS
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1949. Topography by plane-table surveys 1951
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on North Dakota coordinate system, north zone



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Heavy-duty | 4 LANE 6 LANE | Light-duty |
| Medium-duty | 4 LANE 6 LANE | Unimproved dirt |
| U. S. Route | | State Route |



PEKIN, N. DAK.
SE/4 PEKIN 15' QUADRANGLE
N4745-W9815/7.5
1951

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, FEDERAL CENTER, DENVER, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
AND BY THE STATE WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION, BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



To: Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
From: Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr./ Lorna Meidinger
Date: 5 May 2010
Subject: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 5th day of May 2010, for the nomination of the Old Settler's Pavilion to the National Register of Historic Places.

- 1 National Register of Historic Places nomination form on archival paper
- Multiple Property Nomination form on archival paper
- 11 Photographs
- 1 Original USGS map(s)
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Pieces of correspondence
- 1 Other: Photo cd

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objections do do not constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: