

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 7/21/83
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Tabor School

and/or common Tabor Log School

2. Location

street & number Vancura Memorial Park

NA not for publication

city, town Tabor

NA vicinity of

state South Dakota

code 046

county

Bon Homme

code 009

3. Classification

Category

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

Ownership

- public
- private
- both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
- being considered

Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name Czech Heritage Preservation Society, Inc.

street & number Lidice Street

city, town Tabor

NA vicinity of

state SD 57063

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Bon Homme County Courthouse

city, town Tyndall

state SD

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date 1883, 1973
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			replaced on original site

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in two sections, the Tabor School is comprised of a rectangular log pen measuring 18 by 24 feet, and a one-and-a-half story, rectangular pen, frame addition. The school has been relocated on its original site on the main street of Tabor, in what is now a memorial park.

The log school was built in 1873 of cottonwood logs, notched with half dove-tail corners. The interstices were filled with horizontal board slats or narrow pole-boughs and mortared with a soft, sandy, lime mortar. The unobscured original openings appear to be the door and window on the front or west, axial facade, window in the south, gable-end facade. An early door appears to have been opened to accommodate the addition on the rear facade and placed off-center, but opposed to the front window. The building was heated with a stove and a flue rose through the chimney near the south, blank facade.

In 1883 the school was converted to a residence and moved 200 yards. A one-and-a-half story frame addition was attached perpendicular to the rear wall. Either an original or new opening joined the two structures. In addition, the second story was reached by a stair in the log pen. The exact location has been obscured. The log pen was sheathed with horizontal siding at this time. The frame pen is a single room with a door and window on the inner, south, axial facade, double windows on the rear, gable-end, and a single window on the north, axial facade. A dentil like trim decorates the top of the rear windows.

With a bicentennial grant in 1975-1976, the Tabor Jaycees acquired the building and moved it back to its original location. They removed the roof, replaced the flooring with a cement pad and rechinked the logs. In the renovation the siding was removed, the roof was raised about a foot, the logs coated with wood preservative and new trim added to the front and side facades. The rear door and addition retain their original features. After the renovation the Czech Heritage Preservation Society acquired the building to maintain as a museum and center.

Despite the alterations, the main body of the structure with its historic additions remains intact and conveys well its original function thru the Society's interpretive program.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Czech Settlement History

Specific dates 1873 **Builder/Architect** Richard Nundvar

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Significant in the history of early settlement and Czech immigrant history, the Tabor School is an early remaining log school building. In addition, it is a symbol of early education and ethnic settlement of the Czechs in Tabor.

Tabor is called variously the "Mother City of the South Dakota Czechs," the "Heart of Czech Dakota," and "Little Bohemia." The town is the capital of Czech immigrants, especially those from the provinces of Bohemia and Moravia. Although the Czechs first migrated to the Dakotas in 1869, Tabor dates from 1872, as the first settlements were in Yankton County and focused on Lakeport and other early communities. The farmers in Bon Homme decided upon the need for a town and created their own regional center.

One source suggests that plans for a school were initiated in 1871, although the alternate date of the spring of 1873 is more likely. The dedication date also varies between July 4, 1872 and July 4, 1873. It was 1873, however, when the first 20 pupils were known to have enrolled. Joseph Zitka was the first teacher and was paid \$20 a month, collected from families as tuition, based on \$2.50 tax per quarter section owned. Born in 1851 in Litoysl, Czechoslovakia, Zitka received his elementary school education in Czechoslovakia, his secondary schooling in Germany and three years of college training in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Zitka's career began as a farmer and Territorial Legislator. Later, he was the Bon Homme County clerk, treasurer and register of deeds, and finally a cashier at the Security State Bank of Tyndall.

Joseph Zitka taught in both Czech and English. The Czechs in America actively organized reading societies and in later years, language schools to help maintain the native language.

It was not only the language which reflected Czech traditions, however. Richard Nundvar, the carpenter who superintended the construction of the school, was a skilled carpenter from Moravia. Indeed, one of the folk architecture traditions found in South Dakota are Czech log buildings, including residences, schools, and outbuildings.

In 1882 when a new school was built, the school was moved and converted to a dwelling. It was the home of the Behensky's and later, the Joseph Koupal family. Lawrence Koupal brought the school to the attention of the community and assisted in its conversion to its present use.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Newsletter, Summer 1982, Czech Heritage Preservation Society.
Joseph A. Dvorak, History of the Czechs in the State of South Dakota, Czech Heritage Preservation Society, Inc.: Tabor, SD, 1920, reprint 1980.
Press and Dakotan, 15 April 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Tabor

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A

1	4	6	0	9	4	6	5	4	7	5	5	6	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The lot lines of the property form the boundaries of the site, which is located in Lot 1, Block 6 of the original plat of Tabor, South Dakota.

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laddie Kostel technical editing: Carolyn Torma

organization Czech Heritage Preservation Society date 24 May 83

street & number Box C-9 telephone HPC: 605-677-5314

city or town Tabor state SD

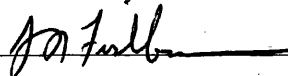
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation

date 7/12/83

For NPS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register

date 9/2/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Tabor School

tabor, South Dakota

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

The State Review Board wished to have its discussion of this nomination incorporated into the nomination itself.

First, the Board was in agreement that the site was historically significant. Both as a reminder of Czech immigrant history and as the first school in the community, the building has value to one particular group and the larger community.

The efforts by the local Jaycees indicates the community's concern for the preservation of the structure. Although the first effort to restore the structure was misguided, the Czech Heritage Society, who now run the property became aware of the need for proper preservation information and stopped some of the destructive work and learned to proceed more cautiously with their own projects.

Thirdly, the Board had deep reservations about the integrity of the structure. Although the structure maintained its historic significance and the general form of the structure and its historic adaptive reuse remain intact, the rest of the school's architectural integrity has been severely compromised.

The Board judged that the importance of the building to the history of the community made the building eligible and reaffirmed its earlier judgment of eligible for the Register.