

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



884

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 if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Butler County District No. 10 School

other names/site number NeHRSI #: BU00-013

2. Location

street & number 2030 Road 45 1/2

	not for publication
X	vicinity

city or town Linwood

state Nebraska code NE county Butler code 023 zip code 68036

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Michael J. Suel SHPO 25 Oct. 2011
Signature of certifying official Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Joe Edson H. Beall 12-7-11
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Butler County District No. 10 School
Name of Property

Butler County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

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

- Private
- public – Local
- public – State
- public – Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic and Architectural Schools in Nebraska

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: School

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

OTHER: One-room Schoolhouse

foundation: STONE

walls: WOOD: Clapboard

roof: METAL: Standing Seam

other: _____

Butler County District No. 10 School
Name of Property

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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

The District No. 10 School is located on a non-historic farmstead in the northeastern corner of Butler County, about 1 mile south of the Platte River and 3 miles west of Linwood, Nebraska (2000 pop. 118). Linwood is approximately 50 miles north of Lincoln, Nebraska's capital city, and about 15 miles northeast of David City, the seat of Butler County. The school and its associated outbuilding are clustered together in the southwest corner of the farmstead just north of Road 45½, which has historically bisected this section of Platte Township (Section 32, T17N-R4E). Mature trees separate the property from a farmstead to the east and provide a visual boundary to the north. The nominated property contains 2 contributing buildings: the gable-roofed, one-room frame schoolhouse and a small, shed-roofed wood /coal shed immediately to the east. There are no non-contributing resources.

Narrative Description

The District No. 10 School is a one-story, front-gabled frame building oriented with gables facing north and south. This frame school is constructed in a rectangular plan with a small historic front-gabled entry addition on the south and a small non-historic metal shed addition located against the rear (north) facade. The main rectangular mass of the building measures roughly 32 feet north-south by 16 feet east-west. A modern standing seam metal roof was recently installed to cover the still-extant historic wood shingles, which were in poor condition.

The foundation of the school is constructed of stone and mortar with a historic coating of cement stucco. The facades of the school are clad in horizontal wood clapboard siding. On the south (front) façade is a centrally located, smaller gable-fronted historic addition which serves as the entry. The front entry is accessed by a historic poured concrete stoop located in the southeast corner between the addition and the main mass of the school building. The front door is non-historic, constructed of metal and glass, and located on the entry's eastern facade. The entry and stoop are lighted by a historic exterior fixture located on the south façade of the main school building. One historic, 2-over-2, double-hung window is located on the south (front) façade of the entry addition. The outline of a now-enclosed entry is apparent on the western façade of the entry addition. Upon inspection the enclosed area appears to be a historic alteration approximately the size of a door and enclosed with matching clapboard siding. Two historic, 4-over-4, double-hung windows with wood sashes measuring approximately 24" wide by 75" tall, flank the addition on the southern façade.

The western façade consists of four regularly-spaced, historic, 4-over-4, double hung windows measuring approximately 24" wide by 75" tall. The north (rear) façade has a small non-historic metal shed addition which holds some of the mechanical systems. The only point of access is through a door on the eastern façade of the metal addition. A historic concrete block chimney projects up through the peak of the gable.

Attached on the eastern façade toward the northern corner is a small wooden deck in poor condition. The date of this deck is uncertain, but is believed to have been constructed sometime in the 1960s or 1970s. The openings on the eastern façade mimic the western façade; however, the most northerly opening was turned into a door at some point in the early-to mid-20th century. Above the door can be seen the enclosed portion of the former window. The historic wooden door, which has been modified to accept a panic bar on the inside, opens to the deck. A series of three historic, 4-over-4, double-hung windows measuring approximately 24" by 75" tall create the remaining openings on the eastern façade.

All corners on the original massing of the school retain their corner boards that terminate in simple capitals. The capital detail possesses the same profile as the historic wooden window hoods on the original main mass of the school. These details faintly echo the Greek Revival style.

Interior

The entry room consists of a historic horizontal bead board wall and an original floor. Separating the main original mass of the school from the entry is a historic wooden door. Through the door is a narrow foyer with two historic doors on the northern wall. This room, which would have historically been for coats, boots, and book storage, possesses the original

Butler County District No. 10 School

Butler County, Nebraska

Name of Property

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vertical bead board wainscoting on all walls. The plaster walls above the chair rail were covered with acoustic panels up to the ceiling at some point in the mid-20th century. Between the two doors, running from the ceiling to the floor is mid-20th century duct work. The original wood flooring extends from this foyer into the main classroom area through the two historic wooden doors. The original vertical bead board wainscoting and the mid-century acoustic panels are found throughout the classroom. On the south, east, and west classroom walls large chalkboards were removed by a previous owner and their indentations can still be seen. The primary chalkboard was located on the south wall, as evidenced by the extant original wooden chalk tray. On the northern wall is located a two tiered original wooden platform or stage. Higher up on the northern classroom wall and along the ceiling to the southern classroom wall extends mid 20th century duct work. In the center of the northern classroom wall is located an opening for a stovepipe, presumably used when the building was heated by a coal / wood stove.

Wood / Coal Shed

To the east of the school is located a small wood / coal shed. This building is constructed of historic wooden drop lap siding on all facades, including the door on the south façade. Two small side-hinged door openings are located on the western façade, with only one of the doors still in place. A modern standing seam metal shed roof slopes down toward the east of this building. The interior consists of numerous historic studs and beams for the various divisions within the building, which sits atop a historic poured concrete foundation.

Integrity, Condition and Future Plans

Overall the Butler County District No. 10 School and its associated wood/coal shed retain excellent integrity. Most alterations and modifications reflect efforts to keep the school in service over its long period of significance. Only the small rear addition, the side deck, the removal of the chalkboards and the installation of a standing seam metal roof on both buildings post-date 1961. With the exception of the chalkboards, these alterations are additive and potentially reversible.

The property owner, Mary Sohl, intends to use tax incentives to rehabilitate the school into a country store and café where she will sell her own food products and other Nebraska-made goods.

Butler County District No. 10 School
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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1877 - 1961

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance extends from the estimated date of construction for the school, c1887, until 1961, 50 years from present. During this entire 84 year period, the building was utilized as a school for local children.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): NA

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The dwindling number of historic rural one-room schools is a common preservation issue throughout Nebraska. The excellent integrity and condition of the District No. 10 School, combined with the overall significance of rural one-room schools, makes this property eligible under National Register Criteria A and C under the registration requirements established in the *Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska MPD*.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The date of construction for the District No. 10 School is uncertain. The property was donated for the purpose of a school or church in 1877 by Daniel and Elizabeth Powell. By 1881, Daniel Powell sold the surrounding parcel of land, stating that the conveyance included 80 acres excluding, "one acre on the South East corner reserved for School House."

The school continued in operation throughout the early 1900s with numerous small improvements made as they were needed. For instance in 1931, the school board approved the wallpapering of the classroom. The earliest known use of coal for heating the schoolhouse is found in 1931 when the school board approved payment for a regular coal supply. Many of the improvements to the school during the early- and mid-20th century consisted of wallpapering, painting, stove repair, lawn maintenance and cleaning.

By the 1973 – 1974 school year, District 10 had 16 students enrolled. At the end of the school year a petition by residents in the Linwood area requested dissolution and consolidation of District 10. In August of 1974 the County Superintendent authorized the dissolution of District 10, citing declining enrollment as the reason. Following consolidation the property was sold to Duane Svehla in 1974. In 2001, Robert and Carolyne Moenning purchased the property and in 2011, the building was acquired by Mary Sohl.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Johnson, Harrison. *Johnson's History of Nebraska*, Omaha, NE: Herald Printing House, 1880.

Nebraska State Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office. "Reconnaissance Survey of Butler County, Nebraska," 1980.

Nebraska State Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, BU00-013 Site File, August 2011.

Slattery, Christina. "Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska, Multiple Property Document," 2000.

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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number: BU00-013

Butler County District No. 10 School
Name of Property

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

The Butler County District No. 10 School is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Education. As one of the few remaining one-room schoolhouses in Butler County, the No. 10 School is important to our understanding of rural education in this portion of Nebraska. From the earliest days of education in Nebraska up to the period of consolidation, the District 10 School represents the history of rural education and is eligible for listing under Criteria A for education. The school is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent local example of a one-room school house.

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

Butler County School District No. 10 and Early Rural Education

The Butler County District No. 10 School was established to provide education to the rural population of northeast Butler County in the late 1800s. For nearly a century the school performed this function with only a few alterations to the school building. Following trends identified in the *Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska MPD*, the District 10 School was constructed on a rectangular plan with a series of three or four windows on each side of the building, with the door facing south. Additionally, District 10 possesses entrances into the classroom; a vestigial design feature coming from the religious practice of having a door for each of the sexes, so that boys and girls maintained propriety.

During the 1800s school development was seen as an important aspect of a community. Supporting and funding the construction of a school demonstrated a community's prosperity, progressiveness and permanence. The Compulsory Education Law of 1887 signified the importance of education to Nebraska, requiring all children between the ages of 8 and 14 to attend school for at least 12 weeks a year. With this requirement came the construction and improvement of many district schools across Nebraska.

Butler County and its school system were both organized in 1869, the same year Union Pacific completed its transcontinental railroad. Early residents of the Platte River valley could see an influx of settlers on the horizon and worked actively to create political and social systems to meet anticipated demands. The nine school districts drawn up in 1869, however, would quickly prove insufficient as approximately 2,500 "persons pitched their tents," in Butler County between 1869 and 1872. At the close of the 1870s, the federal census enumerated some 7,310 people living in the county. School age children, who were entitled to a free education after the ratification of the Nebraska Constitution in 1875, made up almost 40% of this population.¹ Not surprisingly, the number of school districts grew exponentially during the 1870s. Considering its low number, School District No. 10 was likely the first created after 1869.

Building Improvements, School Consolidation and the One-Room School House Today

During the early 1900s Nebraska began a process of establishing standards for schools which resulted in alterations. According to the *Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska MPD*, one common improvement made to early schoolhouses was, "the addition of a porch and extra utility rooms." Based upon the design and materials of the front entry of the District No. 10 School, this early addition likely represents this aspect of rural schoolhouse development. Although several other alterations were made over the years, such as adding acoustic panels and modifying a window opening to accommodate an emergency panic door, all demonstrate a rural school's expansion and adaptation to modern standards. Most rural one-room schools would eventually succumb to the need for more modern amenities during the mid-20th century and, as the rural population simultaneously declined, were consolidated. This was the case for District 10, which closed in 1974 after nearly a century of service.

While many ceased to function in an educational status, several rural school buildings survived after consolidation. In 1906, there were 93 school districts in Butler County, Nebraska. A 1980 reconnaissance-level survey of Butler County identified 13 extant rural schools throughout the county. A 2011 resurvey of those 13 rural schools revealed that only 4 are still extant, with 1 being too obscured from view to determine its current state. The Butler County District No. 10 School possesses the best integrity and condition out the 4 extant, resurveyed schools.

¹ Johnson, Harrison. *Johnson's History of Nebraska*, Omaha, NE: Herald Printing House, 1880, 220-221; Slattery, Christina. "Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska, Multiple Property Document," 2000.

Butler County District No. 10 School
Name of Property

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County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property < 1 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 0667771 4585314
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the nominated property extends 10 feet to the north of the northern edge of the school and 10 feet west of the western edge of the school. The eastern and southern boundaries are defined by fences enclosing the property. The boundary of the nominated property forms a rectangle of less than an acre in size.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were based upon current property lines. Given that only a portion of the current property contains the historic school and the associated wood / coal shed, that section was selected to be nominated, excluding the more recent development to the north and west.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patrick Haynes / Historic Resources Survey & Inventory Coordinator
organization Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office date August 29, 2011
street & number 1500 "R" Street telephone _____
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501
e-mail _____

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.

Butler County District No. 10 School

Name of Property

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- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive 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: Butler County District No. 10 School

City or Vicinity: Linwood (vicinity)

County: Butler

State: Nebraska

Photographer: Patrick Haynes

Date Photographed: July 20, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

01 of 10. School and Coal/Wood, Aspect: NE

02 of 10. School, South Façade and West Side, Aspect: NE

03 of 10. School, East Side, Aspect: W

04 of 10. School, Back (North) and West Sides, Aspect: SE

05 of 10. Coal/Wood Shed, Aspect: SE

06 of 10. School, Interior: Foyer with door to Entrance Addition, Aspect: SW

07 of 10. School, Interior: South classroom wall with chalkboard space and west wall, Aspect: W

08 of 10. School, Interior: Classroom, Aspect: NW

09 of 10. School, Interior: Stage in Classroom, Aspect: NW

10 of 10. School, Interior: Side Exit in Classroom, Aspect: E

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mary Sohl

street & number 2030 County Road 45.5

telephone _____

city or town Linwood

state NE

zip code 68036

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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Butler County District No. 10 School

MULTIPLE NAME: School Buildings in Nebraska MPS

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Butler

DATE RECEIVED: 10/28/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/21/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/06/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/13/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000884

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12.7.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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.



NE - Butler County - District 10 School - 0001



NE - Butler County - District 10 School - 0002

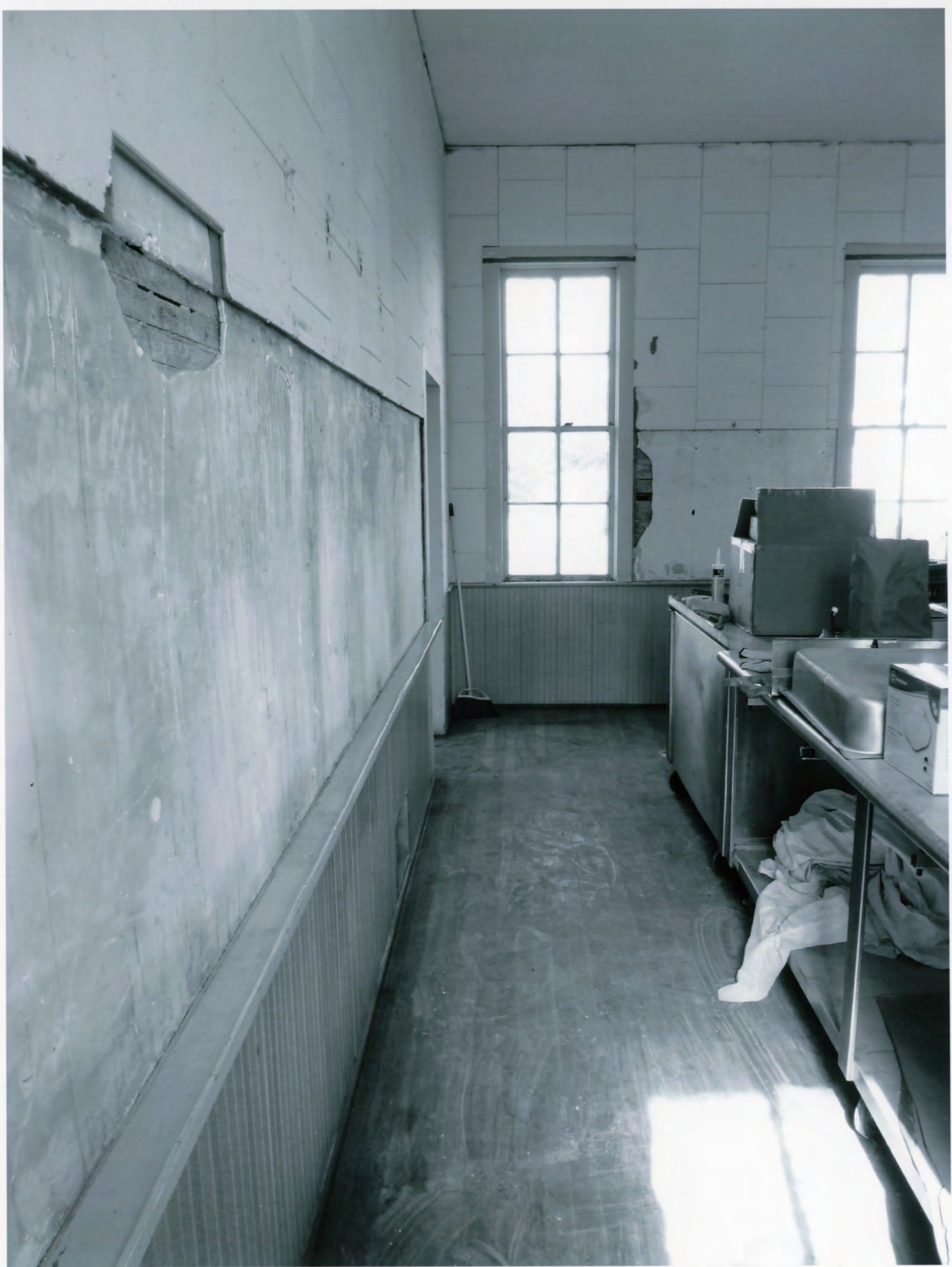


NE - Butler County - District 10 School - 0003











NE - Butler County - District 10 School - 0008

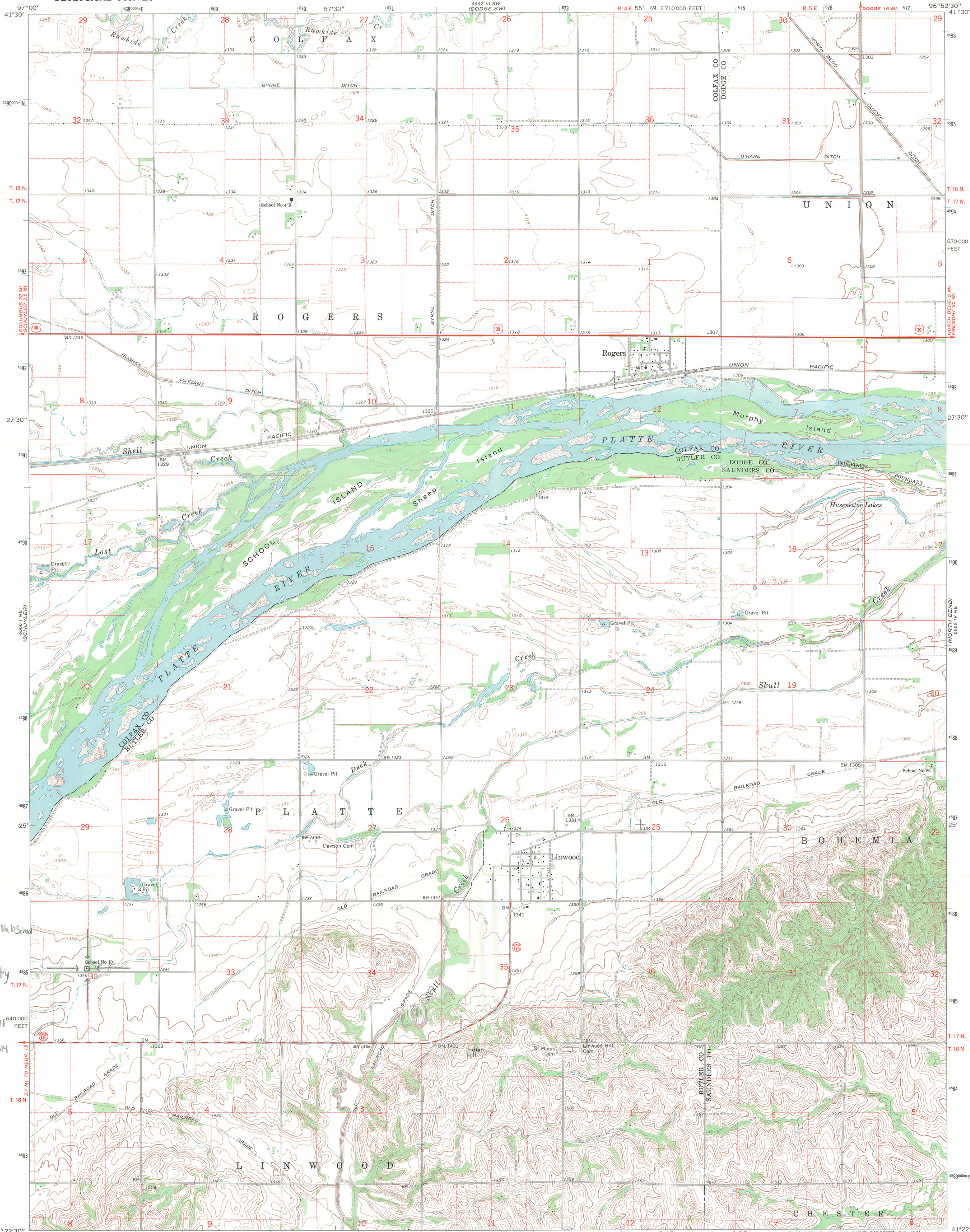


NE - Butler County - District 10 School - 0009



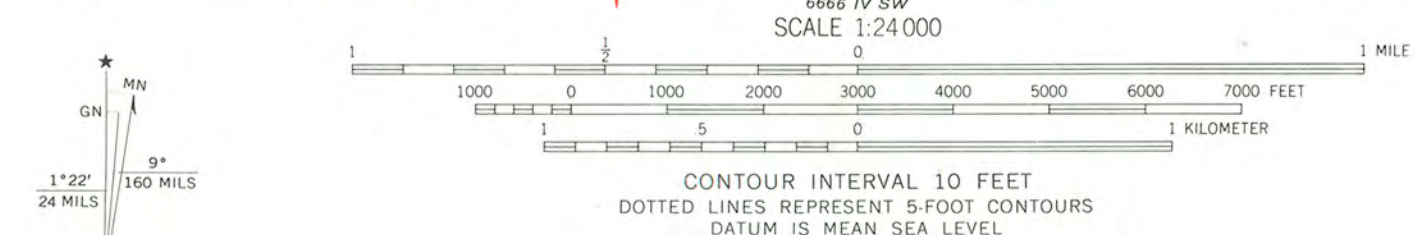
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100
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NE - Butler County - District 10 School - 0010



Butler County District No. 12 School
BU00-013
Butler County
Zone: 14
Easting: 0667711
Northing: 4525314

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
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1968
Polyconic projection: 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
U. S. Route	State Route



ROGERS, NEBR.
N4122.5-W9652.5/7.5
1968
AMS 6666 IV NW—SERIES V875

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



October 19, 2011

J. Paul Loether
National Register—National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Butler County District No. 10 School
Butler County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above resource. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Robert Puschendorf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

L. Robert Puschendorf
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

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Lincoln, NE 68501-2554
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