

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

80007012
JAN 29 1980

HISTORIC NAME: Comstock Public School
CURRENT NAME: Comstock School
LEGAL DESC.: Outlet EE, Original Plat

COUNTY: Clay
CITY/TWP.: Comstock
ADDRESS: Main Street

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Education</u>
Structure _____	Good _____	State _____	Secondary _____
Object _____	Fair _____ <u>X</u>	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes ___ No <u>X</u> Restricted _____	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____	Vacant
OCCUPIED:	Yes ___ No <u>X</u>	

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1909-1911, 1929, 1939	ORIGINAL USE: School
ORIGINAL OWNER: School District #69	ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Red River Valley Historical Society c/o Jon Evert Comstock, Minnesota	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>x</u>
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LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:	UTM REFERENCE: 14 / 672105 / 5169710 Hickson 7.5 quad.
FORM PREPARED BY: Tom Harvey	
DATE: October 1979	

DESCRIPTION:
The Comstock School has grown in stages with the demand for more space. The main portion of the school is a 1909, 2-story brick structure. In 1909 only the two lower classrooms were completed. In 1910, one more classroom was finished, and in 1911 the fourth classroom was completed. The rectangular plan, with two floors above a raised basement, has a slightly bellcast hip roof. A dormer above the central entrance was once topped by a bell tower, now removed.

First floor and basement windows are set into slightly arched openings. Second floor windows have flat openings. Raised brick belt coursing runs the perimeter of the building between the sets of the windows. The visual focus of the building is the central entrance bay and the repetition of elements on its three levels. Broad steps lead to double doors set in semi-circular arched doorway, flanked by narrow lower arched windows. The pattern is duplicated by the three central windows on the second floor. Raised brick hood molds are found on both levels. Wood framed windows, set into the open dormer gable, repeat the pattern. The gable dormer roof is slightly bellcast with return. Fish scale shingles cover the dormer gable.

In 1929 a low, one-story brick high school wing was added off the rear of the school. While this wing does not contribute to the original structure, neither is it visually disruptive. The 1939 gymnasium addition is attached to the high school wing, well removed from the original school.

SIGNIFICANCE:
The Comstock School is typical of small-town consolidated schools in its size, growth, and decline. It is somewhat atypical in its design. The arched front doorway and windows make the Comstock School an unusual architectural example in Clay County. School District #69 consolidated in 1909, making the district the first consolidation in Clay County. Until the early 1920s, grades 1-8 were taught at Comstock. In 1921 a three-year high school program was begun, and in 1929 the High School addition was built, and the fourth high school grade was added. In 1939 the gymnasium was added. Declining enrollments led to consolidation with the Barnesville School in 1956, and the closing of the Comstock School. The Red River Valley Historical Society owns the school and has considered using the building for an educational interpretive center.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Comstock Public School
NAME:

MULTIPLE Clay County MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, Clay

DATE RECEIVED: 12/09/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/22/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002012

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE

DATE 1-22-09

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Comstock School

Name of property

Clay County, MN

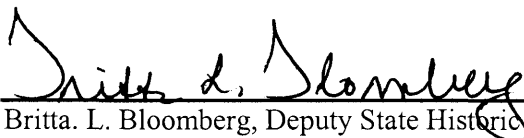
County and State

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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

National Register Number: 80002012

Builder: Bayer, J.M. and Merritt, W.H.


Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Minnesota Historical Society

12/2/08
Date