

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service,

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

For NPS use only

received MAR 19 1986
date entered APR 30 1986

Continuation sheet Langdon School Item number BU-30 Page 1

SITE BU-30

NAME Langdon School

LOCATION Snoma Road about 5 miles southeast of Nisland, West Butte
Unorganized Territory, Butte County, South Dakota

OWNER David Rathbun
Box 176
Nisland, South Dakota 57762

CLASSIFICATION Building, private, NA acquisition, unoccupied, restricted
access, vacant

DESCRIPTION Excellent condition, unaltered, original site

The Langdon School is a classic example of the cube school that was stylistically popular in rural South Dakota from 1915 through 1930. Located about 4 miles southeast of Nisland (1983 population 216), the school was constructed in 1929. Situated in a grassy field, the school is a large wood-frame cube, covered in clapboard and painted white, with a wood shingled pyramidal roof. A red brick chimney rises through the roof on the front elevation which has a main door flanked by a window on either side. The east elevation has a row of four windows. The west elevation has two windows. No openings are located on the north side of the building. A sign over the door reads Langdon School/District No. 8/1929.

No interior alterations have been made in the school. The combination entry foyer and cloakroom across the south wall has two interior doors that lead to the one classroom. Not in active use for many years the windows in the school are boarded over to protect the school.

SIGNIFICANCE 1900-Present, architecture, education, local history, ca. 1929

DATE: 1929

BUILDER: Richard Langdon, Sr. and Unknown

The Langdon School is architecturally significant to rural Butte County as one of the best preserved examples of a rural cube school. Education in the county was perceived as one of the most important concerns by the County Commissioners immediately after the county was created in 1883 when the county was divided into school districts to facilitate teaching in the region. Located on the site

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Langdon School Item number BU-30 Page 2

of the old Butte Hall, the Langdon School remains on the locally important historic site. Recognized by the Butte County Historical Society as an valuable site to the history of the county, a plaque placed in front of the school by the Society reads: Butte County Historic Site Butte Hall 1884-1910.

The first Langdon School was originally built on the southwest corner of the Langdon Ranch until it was abandoned in the 1920s. In the early 1880s local men played baseball near the old Butte Post Office and as the area increased in popularity it was decided that a hall should be built to serve community functions. The hall was built by members of the baseball team and other local citizens with lumber from the Black Hills hauled to the site by Richard Langdon, Sr. The Butte Hall served as an important community center for dances, club and civic organization meeting and political functions for a period of 16 years until 1910 when the site was purchased by G.A. Rathbun, who had the hall dismantled. The second Landgon School was built on the old site of Butte Hall in 1929.

The site is in very good condition and well maintained by the present owner.

QUADRANGLE NAME Newell, South Dakota

UTM REFERENCE 14/620600/4944940

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

ACREAGE Less than one acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NUMBER

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site is bounded by imaginary lines which lie fifteen feet from the exterior walls of the structure on all sides. The site is located in the SW quarter of the SE quarter of Section 15 Township 8 North Range 5 East.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet LANGDON SCHOOL

Item number SITE BU-30

Page 3

