

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC 29 1982  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Alberta Teachers House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Alberta N/A vicinity of Congressional district 7th

state Minnesota code 22 county Stevens code 149

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Alberta-Chokio Public School

street & number N/A

city, town Chokio N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds -- Stevens County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Morris state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July, 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Alberta Teachers House is located near the north end of Main Street in the city of Alberta. The spacious wooded site is adjacent to the Alberta Public School building, which now houses a portion of the combined Alberta-Chokio School system.

The House is a two-and-one-half story rectangular frame building set on a high foundation, with a gable roof facing the street. Modest Craftsman detailing includes exposed rafter ends, brackets, and varied surface treatments (shingle, clapboard, and stucco). Double hung windows are placed singly and in groups. The front facade features a projecting window bay and an open, gable-roofed porch, both exhibiting Craftsman detailing. The roof line of the building includes large dormers on both the north and south sides.

The House has been well-maintained by the school district since its construction in 1917.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1917 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Alberta Teachers' House is significant for its association with an important period in the development and improvement of the state's rural educational system. Bills passed by the state legislature in 1911 and 1915 greatly stimulated the combination of the small rural neighborhood schools into larger districts, offering state aid to those who consolidated. "This action ushered in a revolution in public education," writes Minnesota historian Theodore Blegen. "School planners, architects, and citizens collaborated on buildings, facilities, faculties, and modern means of transportation to enable cooperating communities to keep in step with American education in an era of progress."<sup>1</sup> The Alberta District became consolidated c.1914. Superintendent Fred Grafelman sought to build the consolidated system into not only an improved educational institution, but a community focus as well. In 1916, the national General Education Board selected Alberta as the site for an experiment in rural teachers housing, providing half of the expense of building and equipping the facility. The new structure provided for superintendent's quarters on the first floor, teachers' quarters on the second and third floors, and a "home economics laboratory" in the basement. In an April 1917 article, Dr. George Edger Vincent, President of the University of Minnesota and later President of the Rockefeller Foundation, wrote that, unlike earlier teacherages, "The Alberta House is significant for its city-apartment character, its proximity to the school, its close relations to school work, its completely official nature, its social as well as educational value." He credited the project with effecting significant changes in the attitude of teachers towards "country teaching". In writing of the domestic science classes headquartered in the building, Vincent also echoed the philosophy of the then-contemporary Craftsman movement: "A group of resident teachers . . . fosters local self-respect and contributes to civic loyalty. . . the people of the community . . . learn that simple, sincere, tasteful furniture and decorations are to be preferred to machine carving, plush upholstery, and 'hand paintings'".<sup>2</sup> Over the years, the Alberta Teachers House has continued to provide housing for staff of the Alberta School System, and, since 1967, of the consolidated Alberta-Chokio System.

<sup>1</sup>Blegen, Theodore C., Minnesota: A History of the State. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1963, p. 412.

<sup>2</sup>Vincent, George E., "City Comforts for Country Teachers: A Minnesota Neighborhood Sets an Example to the Nation", in The American Review of Reviews, April 1917, p.403-408.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Blegen, Theodore C. Minnesota: A History of the State. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1963, p.412.

Vincent, George E., "City Comforts for Country Teachers: A Minnesota Neighborhood Sets an Example to the Nation", in The American Review of Reviews, April 1917, p.403-408.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Alberta Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UTM References

A 

1	5
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7	3	0	2	6	0
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5	0	5	0	9	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet - page 1

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis Gimmetad, Acting Assistant State Historic Preservation Officer

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date November 5, 1982

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone 612-726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota

## 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

*Russell W. Fridley*  
Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/15/82

### For NPS use only

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

*Thomas M. Brugel*

date 2/11/83

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Alberta Teachers House, Alberta, Stevens County, MN

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Commencing at the southwest corner of the intersection of Second Avenue and Main Streets; thence south along the west curb line of Main Street 150 feet; thence west to the east edge of Schoolyard Road; thence NE along SE edge of road to point of beginning.