

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0688533

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RECEIVED NOV 1 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 15 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

District No. 10 School

(JF00-36)

AND/OR COMMON

School on the Oregon Trail

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W of Powell

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Powell

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Nebraska

VICINITY OF

031

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

095

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"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

School District No. 303

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Daykin

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

4th and D Streets

CITY, TOWN

Fairbury

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The District No. 10 Schoolhouse, Jefferson County, is a rural school, as it has been since its construction, with fields surrounding it. The school is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from both the Big Sandy Creek to the north and the Little Blue River to the south. It is located at the southwest corner of Section 17 with local roads on the south and west sides of the property. The Oregon Trail is located about 100 feet south of the school. In addition to the schoolhouse, a coal shed and two privies are part of the property.

The schoolhouse, built ca. 1900, is representative of the one-room rural school. It has one room and a small vestibule, which is the gabled extension to the south. The small screened porch was added after 1930. The detailing is more elaborate than usual. The gables are decorated with round and angle cut shingles. There are corner pilasters with simplified capitals and pilasters flanking the original door and transom. The school is now open as a museum, furnished as it was when closed in 1960.

The other buildings which served the school are a coal shed and boys and girls privies. All three structures are wood frame with gabled roofs and doors in the center of the south sides. The coal shed is placed almost directly north of the schoolhouse and one privy is on each side of the shed (see photo #3). All the buildings are painted white.

There are three historic markers and one sign on the property south of the schoolhouse; however, they do not interfere with views of the site. A stone marker commemorating the Oregon Trail was placed on the site in 1914 by School District No. 10 and the State of Nebraska. Two stone and bronze markers commemorating the Pony Express and the Mormon trek, respectively, were erected in the 1960's and '70's. A wooden sign describes the school as being under restoration by the Alexandria Community Club and the Jefferson County Historical Society.

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 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 ca. 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The District No. 10 School is historically and architecturally representative of the one-room rural schoolhouses which were the most common type school in the state until very recent times.

A system of public schools was established by the first Territorial Legislature in March, 1855. The legislation provided for a school superintendent to be elected in each county who was empowered to establish school districts after petitioning by the voters and to levy a 3-5 mill tax for support of the schools. Each district was managed by an elected three-member board. As Nebraska was settled and grew, new school districts were created well into the 20th century. At the time District No. 10 was organized in 1869, there were 797 school districts in the state and 17 in Jefferson County.¹ By 1900 the number of school districts had increased to 6708 in the state and 99 in the county.² The majority of the districts were rural and had one-room schoolhouses. In 1919, 91 of the 178 Jefferson County teachers were in one or two teacher rural schools. Consolidation of school districts began in the second and third decades of this century in the belief that larger districts would have more funds for quality education. The number of school districts in the state have declined from 7264 in 1919 to 1266 in 1972-73, thereby making a great many rural schoolhouses redundant.

District No. 10 was organized March 20, 1869 and the School Board purchased two lots in the Meridian townsite. A school building was erected and classes began in May, 1870. The town of Meridian was the first platted in the county and is now extinct. The old schoolhouse was moved to the present location in 1890 because it was more centrally located for the pupils. The current building was erected about 1900. It is representative of rural schoolhouses because it is one-room, of frame construction and has the usual outbuildings. The detailing in gable shingles and pilasters is more elaborate than usual. Attendance at the school varied from a high of nineteen in the 1901-02 school year to one student in 1903-04 and 1904-05.

1. Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1869, page 56.
2. 16th Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1899-1900, page 470-471.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Gladstone Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 114 641041410 414153121810

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

S.W. corner of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 17, Township 3 North, Range 1 East

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Penelope Chatfield, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

October, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R Street

TELEPHONE

402-432-2793

CITY OR TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Morrison E. Kretz

10/23/78

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-15-78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

William H. Abraham Dec 15, 1978

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

After failing to find a qualified teacher for the previous term, the School Board voted in 1961 to contract with the adjacent Alexandria School District for the teaching of the five enrolled students. The last term taught in the school was the fall quarter, 1960. The School Board continued to contract with Alexandria until 1965 when District No. 10 was dissolved. The following year the Jefferson County Historical Society and the Alexandria Community Club jointly leased the property for 99 years to preserve the buildings as a schoolhouse museum.

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of Nebraska Press, 1966)

Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the
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