



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

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

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Continuation sheet Shpring Creek School Item number PE-4 Page 2

Located to the southeast of the school is the outhouse of wood-frame construction. It has fallen over and is in a state of disrepair.

**SIGNIFICANCE** 1900-present, education, architecture

**DATE:** 1920

**BUILDER:** John Erikson and  
Albert Shelstad

The Spring Creek School is important to the Zenoa community and rural Perkins County as one of the best preserved examples of a South Dakota Standard plan rural cube school. This type of cube-shaped school building was popular throughout rural South Dakota from 1914 through 1930. Traditionally, it has more ornamental embellishment than the earlier rectangular school buildings.

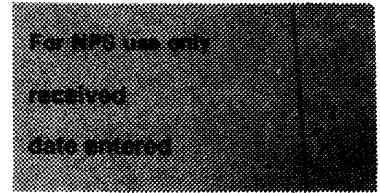
The school was named after Spring Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Moreau River, the closest water source. Constructed in 1920 from a plan in the South Dakota state standards publication for rural schools, the Spring Creek school replaced an earlier school built on the same spot in 1912. The original school was held in a sod claim shack that was part dugout. The local ranchers and homesteaders made the school benches and desks, and guled a piece of oil cloth that was painted black to one of the walls to serve as a blackboard. A homesteader in the Govert area of Harding County, Cora Minks, originally from Ohio where she had been a school teacher, was the first teacher in the school which had twenty-two students in 1912.

Part of the Sheffield School District No. 63 the school was later absorbed into the Bison Independent School District. The Spring Creek School was abandoned in 1967 and moved to a nearby trailer. The school closed offcically in 1972.

Zeona was founded in 1910 by H.E. Rowson who led a group of settlers to the communtiy during the height of the homestead years. Rowson became the first postmaster of the town that was named after his daughter. Many of the homesteaders who settled in the area left a year later because of the severe drought of 1911.

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The Sheep Creek School is important to the history of the Zeona vicinity having been used as an educational facility for nearly fifty years before it was closed. The school has begun to deteriorate since it was abandoned, it does however retain its architectural integrity.

QUADRANGLE NAME Zeona, SD UTM 13/ 664870/ 5006370

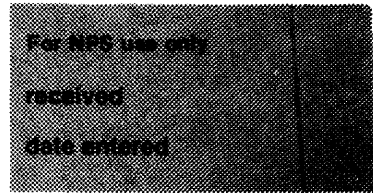
QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000 ACREAGE Less than one

**VERBALE BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundaries of the nominated property are considered to be a set intersecting imaginary lines that lie fifteen feet from the exterior walls of the structure in all directions. The site is located in the NE quarter of the NE quarter of Section 9, Township 14 North, Range 10 East in Perkins County, South Dakota.

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