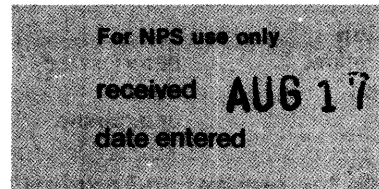


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Beach School

and/or common Beach School

2. Location

*nw of Mt. Vernon off 4030*

street & number T83N, R5W, sec. 18, SW cor., Mt. Vernon area  not for publication

city, town Mt. Vernon <sup>area</sup>  vicinity of ~~congressional district~~ 2

state Iowa code 19 county Linn code 113

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 type="checkbox"/> educational                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                           | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N.A. in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered           | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military                     |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
|   |   |   | <input checked="" 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 Mr. & Mrs. Donald C. Gallagher

street & number RR 2

city, town Mt. Vernon  vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds Office

street & number Linn County Courthouse

city, town Cedar Rapids state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981 (Tax Act)  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N.A.

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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**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**

Beach School is an example of the small country schoolhouse so common to the dusty gravel roads of rural Iowa. Its functional simplicity and use of natural materials place it in harmony with the secluded setting. The wooded site has a stream running nearby and a farmhouse dating from the period.

Built in the early 1890s, the 1½ story former school is wood frame covered with clapboard. The entablature is unadorned as are the windows placed at regular intervals to light earnest students' desks. A transom, now filled with a stained glass panel: "BEACH" marks the narrow front door. The school may have once had a small bell tower, for a sketch shows such a bell in place. Also, in 1901 a box sociable and an ice cream social were held to raise money for the purchase of a bell.

The school has been modified in a sympathetic manner for use as rental housing. The small lean-to addition to the rear is evidence of the care the owners lavished on the adaptation. The clapboard matches that of the original and the addition is of proper scale and proportion. Inside, a dropped ceiling was removed in favor of a half-loft and "cathedral" ceiling for the living room. Three small octagonal windows have been added to light the loft. Original wainscoting from the building's school days has been reused in the main living areas.

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

**Specific dates** 1892 **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Beach School calls attention to the circumstances under which settlers select a school site and construct and name a school. It also illustrates the importance of the country school to socializing on the often isolated life of rural Iowa settlers.

A change in school district boundaries prompted construction of Beach School in the early 1890s. Before its existence, students were forced to travel to the very end of the newly drawn district, a hardship on uncertain roads and in inclement weather. Between 1889 and 1891 the school district set aside funds for building in district 3. Benjamin Beach, who had arrived from Ohio in 1868, provided the land, a common occurrence for farmers who saw the benefits of having the school near their homes. The site was already congested by country standards, for Beach operated a saw mill east of the school at creekside and a grist mill across the road. The Beach farmhouse, also built during this period, still stands near the school.

Thus the site was of commercial importance and, with provision of the school, of educational and social use. An example of the socializing associated with Beach School is the box sociable and ice cream sociable held to raise money for purchase of a school bell in the summer of 1901. Beach School continued to bring the rudiments of education to farm children until 1945–46.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuance sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property about one acre

Quadrangle name Mount Vernon Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

### UMT References

A 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 5 | 6       | 2 | 5 | 9 | 7        | 0 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 0 |
| Zone |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

C 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

D 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

E 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

F 

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|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary described below contains approximately one acre and consists of the school and the land surrounding it. Beginning at an unmarked point approximately 40 feet west of the school and on the northern edge of the right-of-way of an unpaved road and extending northward approximately 100 feet to an unmarked point; thence, eastward (See continuation)

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

state N.A./. code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Beving Long and Ralph J. Christian, Architectural Historians

organization Division of Historic Preservation date July 1982

street & number East 12th and Grand Avenue telephone 515/281-5111

city or town Des Moines state Iowa

# 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 *William D. Selman*

title Director date July 21, 1982

**For NPS use only**

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

*William D. Selman* Entered in the National Register date 9/6/82

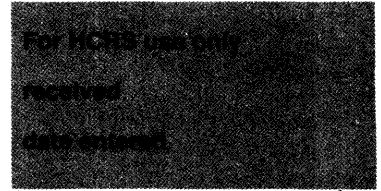
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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Continuation sheet      Bibliography      Item number      9.      Page      1.

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\* M.E. Goddard, "Beach School. An Informal History. 1852-1953."  
Unpublished manuscript in possession of Division of Historic Preservation.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

approximately 130 feet to an unmarked point; thence, southward approximately 100 feet to an unmarked point on the northern edge of the right-of-way of said unpaved road; thence westward approximately 130 feet along said right-of-way to the point of beginning.