

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JAN 24 2001

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property


Historic name Long Creek School
Other names/site number District 8 / WN00-53

2. Location

Street & number Long Creek Lane Not for publication
City or town Blair Vicinity
State Nebraska Code NE County Washington Code 117 Zip code 68008

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 1/17/01
Signature of certifying official Date
Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

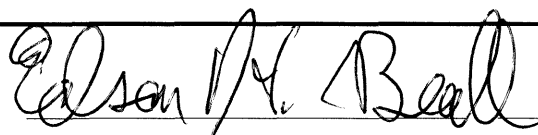
Signature of certifying official/Title Date


State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 see continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 see continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

 2/23/01

 _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Long Creek School
Name of Property

Washington County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Private
 Public-local
 Public-state
 Public-federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Building(s)
 District
 Site
 Structure
 Object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Objects
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Education / School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Recreation and Culture / Local Historical Society

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Other / No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Foundation Brick
Walls Frame

Roof Wood shingle
Other _____

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B Removed from its original location.
C A birthplace or a grave.
D A cemetery.
E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F A commemorative property.
G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1889 - 1902

Significant Dates

1889

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
Previously listed in the National Register
Previously determined eligible by the National Register
Designated a National Historic Landmark
Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location for additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local Government
University
Other
Name of repository:

Long Creek School

Name of Property

Washington County, Nebraska

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

Table with 6 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, Zone, Easting, Northing. Rows 1 and 2.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stacy Stupka-Burda / National Register Coordinator

organization Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office

date 12/12/2000

street & number 1500 R St

telephone (402)471-4770

city or town Lincoln

state NE

zip code 68501-2554

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Long Creek Historical Association, c/o George Jipp

street & number 801 N 14th Ave

telephone (402)426-9705

city or town Blair

state NE

zip code 68008

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Long Creek School

Name of Property

Washington County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Introduction

The Long Creek School District 8 was constructed in 1889 and is a one-story frame building. The school faces east and is situated on a 2-acre parcel above Long Creek. The surrounding landform is dissected loess hills and the setting is primarily rural. This property includes a privy, a flagpole, and swings and a slide. Mature trees on the east, south and west sides of the school provide a visual boundary and contribute to a park-like atmosphere.

Description

The Long Creek School District 8 is a small 1-story schoolhouse located in rural Washington County, Nebraska. Washington County is bounded on the east by the Missouri River and the surrounding landscape is characterized by a landscape typical of a midwestern riverine environment. District 8 school is located approximately 5 ½ miles southeast of Blair, the Washington County seat, and approximately 70 miles northeast of Lincoln, the State Capitol. The front gable roof and rectangular floor plan of this structure is typical of many school buildings constructed during the infancy of Nebraska's statehood.

This building is located on a stream terrace overlooking the Long Creek drainage, and the entrance of this building faces east or toward Long Creek. Double hung, four over four windows are located on either side of the front door. An attic window is located on the east façade and four, square wooden posts support a porch over the main entrance.

The building is clad in wide board clapboard siding, and a series of three windows occurs on each side of the structure. These windows are also double hung, four over four windows. Decorative molding serves as a window cap for each window. The foundation is made of common red brick, which has been stuccoed with cement. Wooden shingles cover the roof.

On the west or rear façade, the most visible feature of the building is the small brick chimney. This brick of this chimney has been incised with numerous initials. The earliest date discernable was "10-29-37" and was included with the initials "H F W". A door and another double hung, four over four window is located on either side of the chimney.

A small concrete path provides access to the front door, with a slightly expanded concrete area directly under the porch. The concrete path continues along the northern side of the schoolhouse and provides access to swings and a privy located northeast of the building. The small frame privy, which is also included as a contributing structure in this National Register nomination, faces south. A privacy screen was constructed on the west and south sides of the entrance to the privy. The setting of this late 19th century schoolhouse is enhanced by mature trees, which surround the building on the east, south, and west sides. These trees shelter a slide, located on the south side of the structure.

A small entry way functioned in several ways. Features such as coat hooks suggest that the small entryway was used as a cloakroom. Throughout the interior of both the entryway and the classroom, the walls are covered with painted wood panels. The classroom retains a great deal of integrity, as blackboards and bulletin boards surround the classroom space. The wooden floor has been covered with linoleum. Student desks and chairs occupy the primary classroom space.

Alterations

Minor alterations are apparent on the exterior of the building, including a porch over the main entrance most likely added during the property's period of significance. The attic window on the east façade has been filled in with wood siding, as has the window on the west façade. Interior alterations, except for the removal of the wood stove and the addition of linoleum, are not visible. These alterations do not affect the building's ability to convey the architectural elements of a one-room school.

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Long Creek School District 8

Name of Property

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Section 8 Page 1

The Long Creek School District 8 meets the requirements of the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska* (Mead and Hunt 2000a). Please refer to the Multiple Property Document for a contextual history of education in Nebraska. The Long Creek School is significantly associated with the historic context entitled *Initial Settlement* as outlined in the Multiple Property Document referenced above and is eligible at the local level under Criterion A. It is also eligible under Criterion C as it exemplifies a specific type of rural school construction identified in the Multiple Property Document. The period of significance is derived from the year the school was constructed, 1889, through 1902. This period of significance begins with the construction of the building and ends with the statewide publication of *School Buildings and Grounds in Nebraska* (Fowler 1902). This publication urged the transformation of rural schools into urban counterparts. By 1912, the nationwide publication *Country Life and the Country School* (Carney 1912) stated that a rural school should consist of at least two rooms.

History of the Long Creek School

The Long Creek School District 8 was established as a sub-district of the Fort Calhoun Precinct in 1865. The first school building was completed the following year (Washington County Historical Association 1980). After a fire destroyed the original building, the current building was constructed in 1889 (Blair Enterprise June 26, 1969). This structure was located approximately 100 meters east of the original building on 2 acres of land owned by the Stanley Ohrt family.

A 3-person school board consisting of a director, a moderator and a treasurer operated the school. This board was elected by the public as directed by the passage of "An Act for the Revision of School Law" in 1867.

During the late 1880's and early 1900's enrollment varied between 40 – 60 pupils. Students typically lived within a radius of 3 to 5 miles from the school. A wood stove provided heat, and kerosene lamps were used for lighting. Water was carried from the nearby Ohrt residence (Washington County Historical Association 1980). A privy, located northwest of the school building provided restroom facilities for both genders. Privies were standard in schools by 1900 (Mead and Hunt 2000a), and this school was never modernized with the installation of indoor plumbing. A simple porch that provided shelter from the elements was added sometime after the initial construction, and was a common early improvement on rural schools (Mead and Hunt 2000a).

As with many rural schools, the Long Creek School served not only as the educational center for area families, but it also functioned as the social center. For example, box socials were held in order to raise money for Christmas treats and other extras such as flags (Washington County Historical Association 1980).

Classes were held in this building for 79 years, until 1968. The Long Creek School District consolidated with the Blair District in 1968 (Washington County Historical Association 1980).

Historical Significance

The Long Creek School District 8 is significant at the local level under *Criterion A*. It is an excellent example of a property type that illustrates an historically significant pattern of rural education. This particular pattern persisted through the 20th century despite many changes in educational policy and reform. This property is also eligible under *Criterion C*. The type and method of construction of this small frame building immediately conveys the significance of a one-room school as defined in the Multiple Property Document "Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska" (Mead and Hunt 2000a). Its rural setting, including the associated playground equipment, privy, and mature trees strengthens the feeling and association of a one-room school setting.

Like most one-room schools, the Long Creek School has an open, rectangular floor plan. A series of three windows on each side of the building provided light and ventilation and was also a common feature of one-room schools (Mead and

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Long Creek School District 8

Name of Property

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Section 8 Page 2

Hunt 2000a). Area farmers and rural residents took advantage of the setting and oriented the entrance of the school to the east to provide a view of the picturesque Long Creek.

By the early twentieth century, educational policy had changed regarding rural schools. This change eventually reduced the number of rural schools built in Nebraska. By 1902, the State Department of Public Instruction recommended that school officials create modern school buildings. In 1903, Nebraska passed legislation to publicly fund student transportation and established procedures for school consolidation (Mead and Hunt 2000b). By 1912, national publications recommended that schools consist of two rooms.

During the period of significance, the Long Creek School's curriculum was based on the traditional rural school curriculum of reading, writing, and arithmetic. With the exception of the removal of the heating stove, the interior of the school has remained unchanged. The design of this interior space was dictated by practical visual and audible distance from the teacher. This basic design was used when constructing rural one-room schools since their inception (Mead and Hunt 2000b).

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Long Creek School District 8

Name of Property

Washington County, Nebraska

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Blair Enterprise

1969 "Long Creek District to Form Historical Association." June 26, 1969.

Carney, Mabel

1912 Country Life and the Country School. Row, Peterson and Company, Chicago.

Mead and Hunt, Inc.

2000a Multiple Property National Register of Historic Places Listing: "Educational Development and Historic School Buildings in Nebraska." On file, NSHS, Lincoln, Ne.

Mead and Hunt, Inc.

2000b "McCartney School District 17 National Register of Historic Places Nomination." On file, NSHS, Lincoln, Ne.

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

1902 Plans and Specifications for School-Houses. n.p., Lincoln, Ne. Collection of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Washington County Historical Association

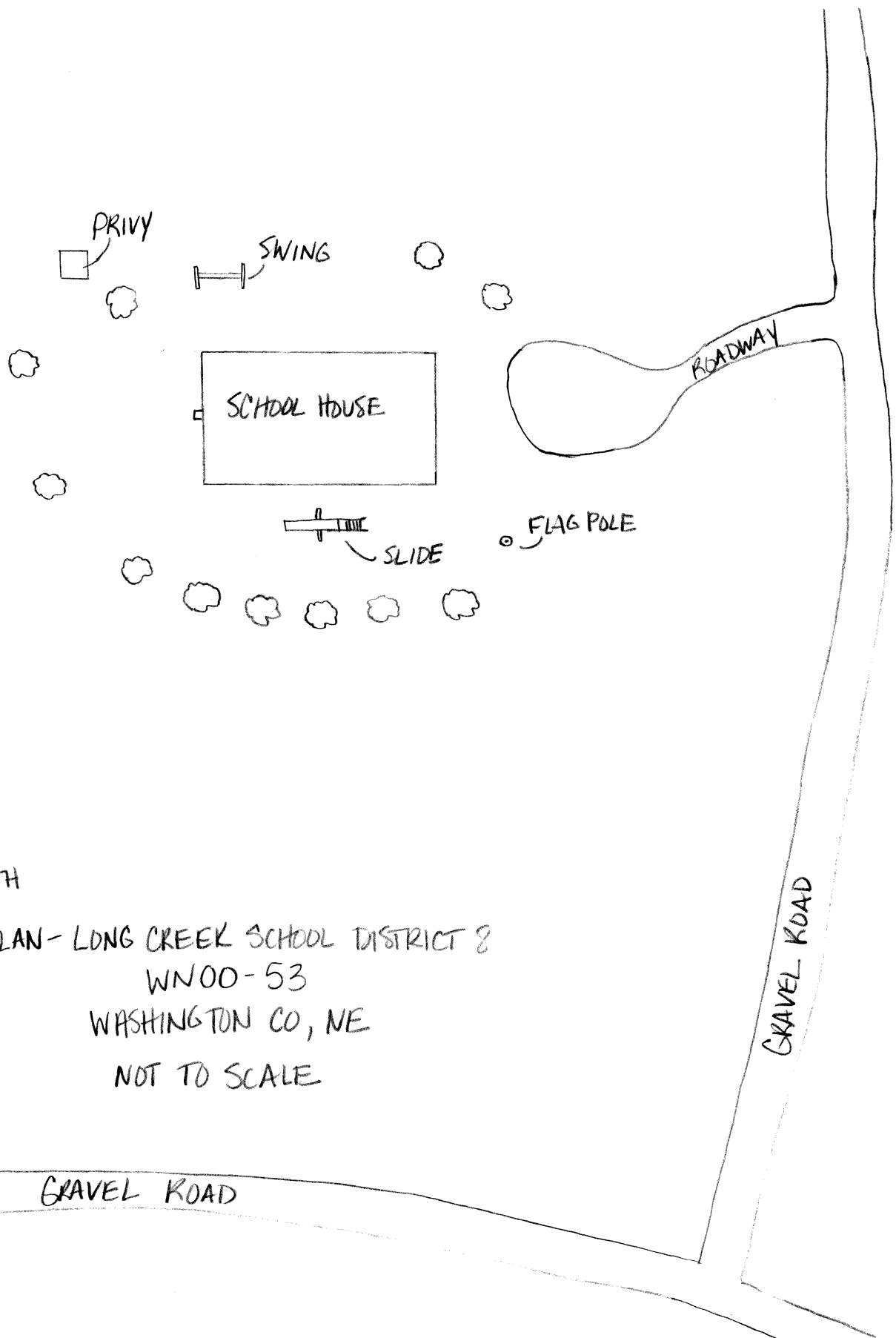
1980 Washington County Nebraska History. Washington County Historical Association, Fort Calhoun, Ne.

Verbal Boundary Description

Commencing at SW corner of W 1/2 of NE 1/4 of Section 8, Township 17N, Range 12E, thence north 16 rods; thence east 20 rods; thence south 16 rods; thence west 20 rods to place of beginning. 2 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Long Creek School District 8 include all resources historically associated with it, and coincide with the legal boundaries of the parcel on which it is located.



SITE PLAN - LONG CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT 8
WN00-53
WASHINGTON CO, NE
NOT TO SCALE

GRAVEL ROAD

GRAVEL ROAD

ROADWAY

SCHOOL HOUSE

PRIVY

SWING

SLIDE

FLAG POLE