

1171

(Rev. 8/86)  
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)  
(Approved 3/87)

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NATIONAL REGISTER

United State Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register form (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Pipe School  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Pipe Road & CTH T N/A not for publication  
city, town Town of Lanark x vicinity  
State Wisconsin code WI county Portage code 097 zip code 54406

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 9/26/93  
Signature of certifying official Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

~~Entered in the  
National Register~~

[Signature] 11/4/93

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register.  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register.

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register.  
\_\_\_ other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### 7. Description

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Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
<u>Late Victorian</u>	foundation <u>STONE</u>
	walls <u>WOOD: weatherboard</u>
	roof <u>METAL: tin</u>
	other <u>Wood</u>

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Pipe School is a one-story, frame, front-gabled vernacular schoolhouse with a rectangular plan. The building has a clapboard exterior, tin roof, and fieldstone foundation. The interior of the schoolhouse is simple, with vertical wood paneled walls, a pressed metal ceiling, and an oak floor. A small woodshed with a shed roof and vertical wood siding is attached to the rear of the building.

The schoolhouse fronts Pipe Road at the southeast corner of its intersection with County Trunk Highway T in the Town of Lanark, approximately three miles west of Amherst, a small community in north-central Wisconsin. The building sits at the far northwest corner of its approximately three acre lot (only a portion of which is being nominated), and has a shallow set-back from Pipe Road. There are no trees or bushes planted in the small lawn that has been maintained around the building. The school, which was closed in 1960, is in fair condition, with almost all of its original details still intact. These details will be retained when the building is renovated in the near future. The Pipe School, constructed in 1889, is a simple rectangular building with a moderately pitched gable roof covered with tin sheathing. A narrow frieze runs under the shallow projecting eaves. The building sits on an uncoursed fieldstone foundation. Three medium-sized windows are symmetrically placed along each of the side walls of the building. They consist of two-over-two-light double hung sashes that are decorated with a very thin cornice drip mold.

The main entrance to the school building consists of a pair of wood paneled doors topped with a transom and more prominent cornice. A two-tiered concrete platform sits under the main entrance. The rear entrance is covered by the shed-roofed woodshed addition that was built in 1927. It is sided with vertical boards.

The main entrance leads into a vestibule. Two separate wood paneled doors lead into the classroom. The classroom has an oak floor that was installed over the original floor in 1921. The walls are paneled with painted vertical beaded boards. A chair rail molding running along the walls interrupts this paneling. Simple flat board surrounds decorate the interior window and door openings.

The ceiling is covered with decorative pressed metal. The pressed metal is also used for a cornice molding. Four pendant lights with round opaque white glass globes hang from the ceiling. They date from 1944, when electricity was installed in the schoolhouse. The original blackboards on the back wall of the classroom had been removed, but the current owners have replaced them with replicas. The interior of the woodshed addition is not finished.

x See continuation sheet

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The schoolhouse was closed in 1960, when elementary schools in the area were consolidated. The building retains excellent integrity on both the interior and exterior.

The current owners will renovate the schoolhouse, keeping and restoring all historic details, as part of their bed-and-breakfast business in the old Severance-Pipe Farmstead that sits across the road from this building. They will be restoring this building and the farmstead using the Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:      nationally      statewide   x   locally

Applicable National Register Criteria   x   A      B      C      D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)      A      B      C      D      E      F      G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant

Dates

Education

1889-1942 (1)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Pipe School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, and is historically significant at the local level for its association with rural education in the towns of Lanark and Amherst in Portage County, Wisconsin. Since its construction in 1889, and until its closing in 1960, the Pipe School was the single most important structure in the education of children in this rural area of Wisconsin in the late nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. The simple frame structure, well-preserved and soon to be renovated with all of its historic details intact, is a good and significant example of a rapidly disappearing historic resource; the one-room country school, the foundation of rural education in Wisconsin until the school consolidation movement of the post-World War II era.

Historical background and significance:

The Pipe School was built in 1889 on a site that was associated with rural education since the early settlers in the area organized a formal public school. In 1856, residents in the rural towns of Lanark and Amherst who lived near this school building held the first school meeting in the area at the John G. Severance house (across the road from the Pipe School, later known as the Pipe Farmstead, also nominated to the National Register of Historic Places). Severance leased a half-acre site across the road from his farmstead to the new school district. On that site the members of School District No. 1 of Lanark and Amherst erected a schoolhouse in 1857. (2)

  x   See continuation sheet

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Like most country schools of the nineteenth century, the first School District No. 1 of Lanark and Amherst schoolhouse was a simple building, constructed for only \$130. The first school session in 1857 was taught by a female teacher who was paid only \$2.00 a week. At this salary, which actually decreased during the next few years, it was not surprising that teacher turnover was high. Between 1857 and 1867, 16 different teachers taught at the Lanark and Amherst schoolhouse. Interestingly, the few male teachers who staffed the school during these first years were paid considerably more for their services than the female teachers, (3)

During the early years of the Pipe School, school sessions were brief, only three or four months during the summer, and even then, the residents of the school district were barely able or willing to fund this short session. In 1859, the district installed a stove in the school, and in 1860, the first two-month winter school session was held. But, there were no blackboards in the schoolhouse until 1861, and pupils had to contribute wood for the stove or pay tuition in order to attend the school for many years. By 1866, a school report indicated that the school was in good condition, with blackboards but no maps. (4)

In 1889, the old school was moved for the construction of a new School District No. 1 of Lanark and Amherst schoolhouse. (The old schoolhouse sits on a farmstead a few miles from this location and is in poor condition.) In 1919, the State of Wisconsin required all schools to be named, and the Portage County Superintendent of Schools renamed the School District No. 1 of Lanark and Amherst School the Pipe School, after the Pipe family who owned the farmstead across the road, and who leased the land to the school district for the schoolhouse. (5)

In 1921, the schoolhouse received the oak floor that is extant in the schoolhouse today, and in 1927, the woodshed addition was built. In 1944 the district installed electricity in the schoolhouse. Throughout its history, the schoolhouse was used for meetings, social gatherings, and Sunday school classes for residents of the area. After World War II, the State of Wisconsin began requiring rural schools to consolidate into larger school districts, and during the next twenty years, most one-room schoolhouses were closed throughout the state. The Pipe School closed in 1960 and the schoolhouse became part of the Pipe Farm. (6)

Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan states that one-room schoolhouses are among the resources that are important in the history of education in Wisconsin. From the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, small, locally-controlled schools were the norm in rural Wisconsin. This resulted in the proliferation of one-room schoolhouses, and by 1923, there were 6,475 one-room schools in the state. However, many of these

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schoolhouses have suffered from neglect, demolition, and remodeling during the last thirty years. So, the Plan states that one-room schoolhouses should retain a high degree of exterior and interior integrity to be eligible for the National Register. (7)

The Pipe School meets all of the conditions for eligible one-room schoolhouses as stated in the Plan. It was a small, locally-controlled school providing education for rural pupils. The schoolhouse has a high level of integrity, with all of its historic features intact. The building has its original clapboard siding, windows, and doors. On the interior, the building has the oak floor that was installed in 1921, the original and unusual wood paneled walls, and the fine pressed metal ceiling. Only the blackboards are new. The building is soon to be renovated into a cottage for the bed and breakfast business that will be housed in the old Pipe Farmstead across the road from this school. This renovation will retain all of the building's historic details.

For over 100 years, one-room elementary schools educated almost all of the young people in rural Wisconsin. It took state legislation and the pressure for new, updated facilities in the post-World War II era to close these schools. But, once they were closed, they were difficult to adapt to new purposes, and they soon suffered from neglect, were demolished, or were remodeled, usually for a residential use. This resulted in the rapid demise of intact one-room schoolhouses in the state.

The Pipe School provided education for rural pupils in the Towns of Lanark and Amherst for over 70 years, and its high level of integrity makes it a valuable resource when studying the history of rural one-room schools in Wisconsin. One-room schoolhouses evoke nostalgia among those people who can remember their early education in one, or who think of them as a symbol of a more romantic era. In reality, these one-room schools were usually poorly staffed, with high teacher turnover, as was the case of the Pipe School, and offered only the most rudimentary education, an education that would be insufficient in today's society. But, regardless of whether one embraces the romantic vision or the reality of the one-room school, they were a long-time and significant means of educating many generations of rural children.

**Educational Significance**

The Pipe School is a fine example of the rural one-room school. It is historically significant for its important association with the broad patterns of educational history. The school served as the primary focus of children's education in the towns of Lanark and Amherst for over 70 years and it conveys a strong sense of the historic conditions of rural school education from the late nineteenth century well into the early twentieth century. Like many of its counterparts, the schoolhouse was also important as a community center for school and club meetings and Sunday

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School classes. It is also important due to its fine historic integrity. Country schools have rapidly disappeared since World War II. There are still many extant one-room school buildings in Wisconsin, but few have the historic integrity of this example. The Pipe School is well-known locally, and it will soon be returned to public use as part of the Pipe Farmstead bed and breakfast.

Notes:

(1) The period of significance begins with the date of construction of the Pipe School and terminates in 1942, the end of the historic period it functioned as a one-room rural schoolhouse, even though its operation continued well after that date.

(2) Wendell Nelson, "Houses With the Has-Beens, The Pipe House in Lanark, Part 1," Tomorrow River Times 15 April 1976, p. 8.

(3) Information from early school records of the Pipe School in possession of the owner.

(4) Ibid.

(5) Ibid.

(6) Ibid.

(7) Barbara Wyatt, Ed., Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. III, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Education, pp. 2-5--2-11.



9. Major Bibliographical References

Nelson, Wendell. "Houses With the Has-Beens, The Pipe House in Lanark, Part 1," Tomorrow River Times 15 April 1976, p. 8. Information from early school records of the Pipe School in possession of the owner.

Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. III. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Education, pp. 2-5--2-11.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

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 of additional data:  
 State Hist. preservation office  
 \_\_\_ Other State agency  
 \_\_\_ Federal agency  
 \_\_\_ Local government  
 \_\_\_ University  
 \_\_\_ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A 1/6 3/2/2/1/7/0 4/9/1/9/5/4/0 B / / / / / / / / /  
 Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / D / / / / / / / / /

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of the west and north lot lines of the Certified Survey Map No. 4820, Portage County Register of Deeds Vol. 17, page 75, Document No. 442684, then east along the north lot line to a line running 50 feet from the east wall of the schoolhouse, then southeast along this line to the south lot line of the Certified Survey Map No. 4820, then west along this line to the west lot line of the Certified Survey Map No. 4820, then north along this line to the point of beginning.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes an area sufficient to convey the historic setting of the Pipe School minus extraneous acreage that does not have a historical association with the property.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Carol Lohry Cartwright, Consultant  
 organization prepared for the owner date 7-13-92  
 street & number W7646 Hackett Rd. telephone 414-473-6820  
 city or town Whitewater state WI zip code 53190

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PIPE SCHOOL, Town of Lanark, Portage County, WI. Photos by C. Cartwright, March, 1992. Negatives on file in the Historic Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. Views:

- 1 of 4: Site view, from the northeast.
- 2 of 4: View from the northeast.
- 3 of 4: Interior, front wall.
- 4 of 4: Interior, rear wall.