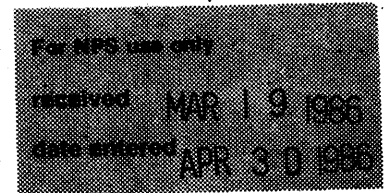


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Black Hawk Elementary School Item number MD 8 Page 1

SITE MD 8

NAME Black Hawk Elementary School

LOCATION Main and Elm Streets, Black Hawk, Southwest Meade Unorganized Territory, Meade County, South Dakota

OWNER George Davis
Black Hawk, South Dakota 57718

CLASSIFICATION Building, private, NA acquisition, unoccupied, restricted access, vacant

DESCRIPTION Excellent, altered, original site

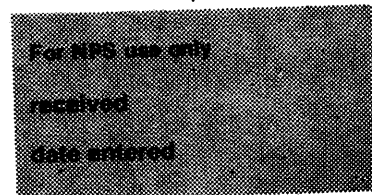
The Black Hawk Elementary School, a one-story, wood-frame rectangular pen, is located on the southeast corner of Main and Elm Streets in Black Hawk. The school is noteworthy because it exhibits greater scale and attention to detail than other structures of this type generally found in the survey area. Two of the most spectacular features are the rock-faced coursed tan sandstone foundation and the cupola atop the projecting pedimented central pavilion.

The hipped roof which is covered in wood shingles with the main ridgeline oriented east-west presents the illusion of a cube. A pyramidal roof cupola supported by four plain square columns is located on the east end of the ridgeline of the gable of the pavilion. Although it no longer hangs in the cupola, the original school bell, manufactured by the American Bell Foundry Company is maintained at the school.

The front elevation, which faces east, features the centered pavilion which is flanked on either side by two nine-over-nine light, double-hung windows. Beneath the pediment, directly atop the double doors, is a three-light transom with two verticle muntins. A double-hung six-over-nine light window is featured on either side of the doors. Both the north and south elevations are penetrated by four nine-over-nine light windows which pierce the plain entablature on all elevations.

The original school has two additions on the west (rear) elevation. The first addition, built in the 1960s is a simple wood-frame rectangular pen which connects to the second addition, and old undated wood-frame cube school which was moved to the site around the same time. The hipped roof of the second addition is also covered in wood shingles with the ridgeline oriented north-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Black Hawk Elementary School Item number MOB Page 2

south. The exterior of the school, covered in clapboard, is painted dark tan with dark brown trim around the windows and doors.

Symmetrical in plan, the Black Hawk Elementary School features a central chimney with a classroom on each side. The blackboards are built into the west walls and a central double door connects the room east of the chimney. The entrance pavilion is divided into a central foyer with a cloakroom on either side for each classroom.

SIGNIFICANCE 1900-present, education, settlement, architecture

DATES: 1917, ca. 1920s, ca. 1960s BUILDER: Zach Holmes

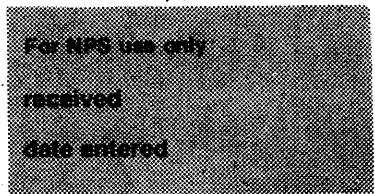
The Black Hawk Elementary School, built in 1916, is an excellent example of the rural cube shaped school buildings popular in South Dakota from 1915 through 1930. It is also noteworthy that the Black Hawk Elementary School was designed by prominent Rapid City architect and builder, Zachariah Holmes. The school is also the third school built in the community which was founded by Swedish immigrants in 1881. The school has, then, in addition to educational significance, both architectural and historic significance and interest.

The first school near Black Hawk was a log cabin on the Peter Oleson ranch which was occupied in 1883. The second school, built by Zach Holmes in 1884 two miles east of Black Hawk, was moved into town in 1886. Moved again in 1892, the Zach Holmes School, is presently located about one mile east of Black Hawk.

Architecturally, the Black Hawk Elementary School is of considerable interest, especially within the context of the Black Hawk community. The original two room school was designed by Zach Holmes, a Swedish emigrant and local architect, twenty years into his career. In addition to the buildings in Black Hawk, Holmes built the Sweeney Building and homes in the West Boulevard area of Rapid City. Instrumental in assisting other Swedish immigrants to establish themselves in the region, Holmes eventually moved to Black Hawk.

Most of the original Swedish settlers in Black Hawk were from Harjedalen with many from the village of Lillherrdal. The Reverend A.A. Anderson, an itinerant preacher, came to the community in 1886 and meetings were held at the Zach Holmes school as there was no Swedish Church for miles. The building was approved August 1, 1916 and was built by the Chris Ness Construction Company during that year. The school opened in 1917.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service,
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Black Hawk Elementary School Item number MO-8 Page 3

↳ 50 →

In active use until June 1984 when a new school was built, the school is one of the longest continuously occupied sites in the survey area. During the 1960s the cube school attached to the eastern most end of the school was moved to the site from Caputa, a town located about twenty-five miles to the southeast. In conclusion, the site is significant both for its continuous period of occupation, with the structure exhibiting an accretional growth pattern which corresponds directly to the growth of the community, and for its exceptional state of preservation.

QUADRANGLE NAME Blackhawk, South Dakota UTM REFERENCE

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

ACREAGE Less Than One Acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NUMBER

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the south by the north edge of an alley, on the west by a hillslope, on the north by the south edge of Elm Street, and on the east by the west edge of Main Street. The site is located in the SW quarter of the NW quarter of Section 8, Township 2 north, Range 7 east of Meade County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet BLACKHAWK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Item number SITE MD-8 Page 4

