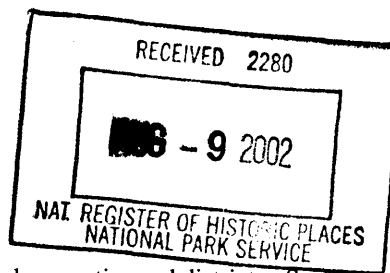


JUL 26 2002

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1028

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

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 Walnut Grove School

other names/site number Cedar Number 7; Haugerud School

**2. Location**

street & number 3272 Foothill Avenue N/A not for publication     

city or town Osage vicinity X

state Iowa code IA county Mitchell code 131 zip code 50461

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Rowell J. Srite July 30, 2002  
Signature of certifying official Date  
**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**

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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
X entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall 9/12/02  
     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):     

     Signature of Keeper Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  1  </u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  1  </u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
  N/A  

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   Education   Sub:   School  

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   Recreation and Culture   Sub:   Museum

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

roof Asphalt

walls Wood/Weatherboard

other Brick

Glass

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)

- 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.
- 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.)

- 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance 1873-1946

Significant Dates 1873-1946

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

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

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>566540</u>	<u>47861000</u>	<u>3</u>
2	_____	_____	4	_____

See continuation sheet.

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 Jaceil Gisleson  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date November 8, 2001

street & number 2120 340th Street telephone 641-732-3931  
city or town Osage state IA zip code 50461

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Walnut Grove School  
Name of Property

Mitchell County, Iowa  
County and State

**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 Mitchell County Historical Society President, Lori Mark

street & number 1525 State Street telephone 641-732-1087

city or town Osage state Iowa zip code 50461

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Section 7,8,9 Page 9

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**Bibliography**

The Story of Mitchell County 1851-1973

Compiled by Mitchell County Historical Society

Published by Klipto Printing Company, Mason City, Iowa

History of Mitchell County, Iowa 1883

Reprinted and Published by the Klipto Printing Company, Mason City, Iowa

The History of Mitchell County, Iowa 1989

Printed and Published in the United States by Curtis Media Corporation Dallas, Texas

Utvandringshistorie fra Ringeriksbygdene

(History of Emigration from Ringerike Settlements)

Director's Minutes from Walnut Grove School,  
(stored at the Merrill Johnson home in Meroa)

Meroa

Compiled by Mrs. Gertrude Norby Crowell,

Published by The Press-News, Osage, Iowa

Northern Trails Education Agency Area 2

Clear Lake, Iowa

Collection of letters in the Norwegian-American Historical Association located on the lower level of the Rolvaag Memorial Library on the St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN under the Fosholt, Sanford K (1915) # 1311.

One Room School Memories

Compiled by Cedar Valley Retired School Personnel

Edited by Jaceil Gisleson

Published by Press News, Osage, Iowa 1995.

Standard Historical Atlas of Mitchell County

Published by the Anderson Publishing Company Map and Atlas Publishers, Chicago, IL 1911.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 page 1

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**DESCRIPTION**

Walnut Grove School is a one room, one story wood frame school house nestled in a stand of walnut and oak timber along Rock Creek in the village of Meroa in Cedar Township, Mitchell County, Iowa. Established as a school in 1857, the building was rebuilt in 1873 on the same site. Set on a native limestone foundation with crawl space under the building, this thirty-four foot by eighteen and one-half foot rectangular building has six inch wood weatherboard siding painted white. Four double hung two pane glass windows are on the south and the north sides of the building with the window frames painted black. The roof has gray asphalt shingles. On the west gable end there is a single entry solid wood door at ground level. A bell tower housing a cast iron bell is on the west end of the roof. The four foot square tower stands six feet high with open sides and a roof that rises to a peak where the flag pole held the United States Flag. The opposite east end of the roof has a red brick chimney.

The ten foot interior walls and the ceiling have their original wainscoting painted an off-white color. The coatroom wall was reconstructed with matching wainscoting. The fir floor has been refinished to restore the appearance of an "oiled" floor. An elevated stage juts out six feet from the front (east end) of the main room. The chalk board is in the front of the room with one half, painted board and one half, slate. Above the chalk board are manuscript and cursive alphabet letters. A teachers desk from the 1930's sits on the stage with a straight wooden chair. A Moline Pump Organ with organ stool is at the south side of the stage. The main floor is furnished with wooden desks, each with iron sides and legs, the seats hinged for lifting. A large enameled wood/coal stove sits at the rear of the room. The stove pipe is suspended from the ceiling with wire and enters the chimney in the front of the room. Four vintage 1940s era school house electric light fixtures hang from the ceiling. Four wall brackets holding kerosene lamps with reflectors are reminders of how the school was lit prior to electricity coming to the area in the 1940s. An oak map case, returned to the school, holds seven maps each dated 1920. Pictures of Presidents Lincoln and Washington are hung on the west wall. A picture of Betsy Ross sewing the flag is hung on the south wall. Book shelves in the rear of the room are filled with books that were once used in the twelve Cedar Township rural schools. The painted chalk board is the only item original to the building. The other furnishings were from one room schools within Mitchell county.

The coatroom is located on the west end and is four and one-half feet in depth. A sixteen inch wide pine board shelf supported by wooden braces holds the crock water cooler on the west wall. A wall hook holds the linen hand towel. A three and one half foot pine bench sits along the west wall. Period lunch pails, some lard pails and some syrup pails that once carried lunches are kept in the coatroom. On the opposite end of the coatroom are wire wall hooks for caps and jackets. Extra fire wood is stored on the north end of the coatroom. A rope attached to the bell in the bell tower enters the coatroom through a hole in the ceiling. A sudden pull on the rope rings the iron bell that can be heard throughout the area.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
Continuation Sheet

**Section number 7 page 2**

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**DESCRIPTION** continued

A grass covered lawn is about twenty feet in width on each side of the school building, gravel in front and trees in back. One outdoor toilet is located at the back edge of the clearing north east of the school. This toilet was built without any windows or half moon openings to let in daylight. The toilet is original to the school. It was built on a slope with the entry door on ground level, the pit continues down from the foundation on the lower level of the slope. A clean-out door is at the bottom east side of the pit. The foundation has been rebuilt, but the wooden toilet structure is original.

Walnut Grove School did not have any conventional playground equipment. The children played in the timber and the creek area. Sleds, toboggans, and ice skates were all part of their winter recess equipment. A clearing in the timber was their ball diamond for warm weather activity.

Used as a township hall from 1946 until 1997, the building was put up for sale in 1997. Former students, their children, neighbors and friends bought the building for \$500. Renovating started immediately. New asphalt shingles replaced old asphalt shingles. A few pieces of new siding replaced deteriorated siding. The exterior and interior were completely re-painted. The bell tower was removed and rebuilt for strength keeping the same style as the old tower. A bell was purchased and put in the bell tower. The school is very visible because it sits twenty feet east of Foothill Avenue in the village of Meroa.

Since its restoration Walnut Grove School has been visited by school children and adults. Local organizations have held meetings in the school and some groups have toured the school to reminisce.

The school is now owned by the Mitchell County Historical Society.



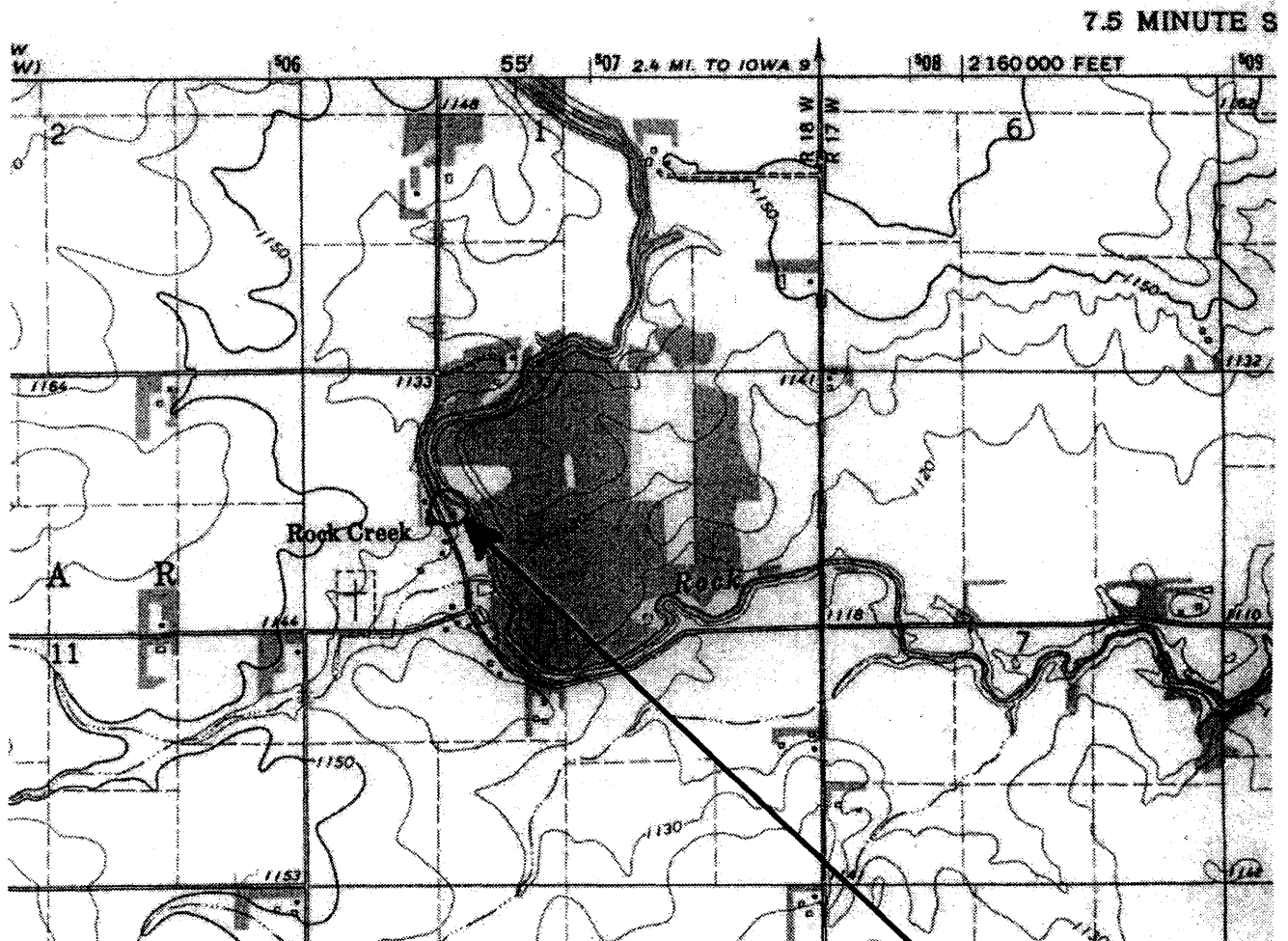


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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Walnut Grove School

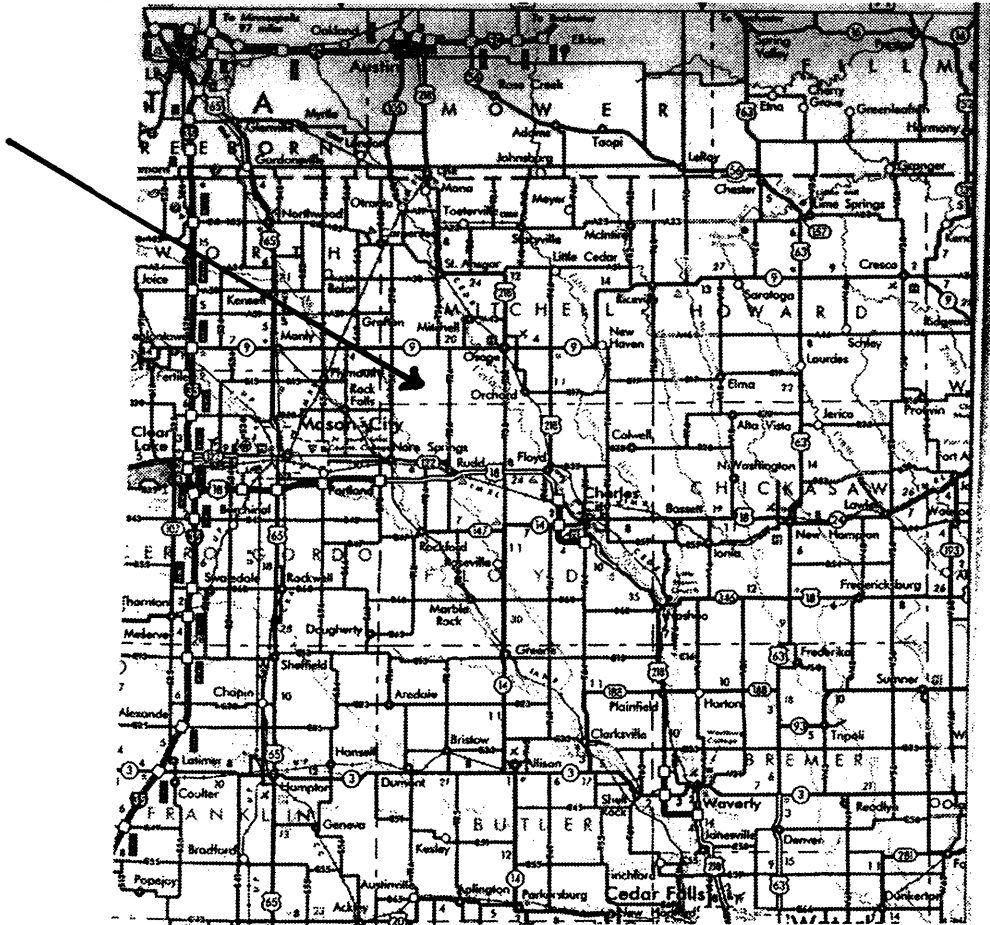
Section 7 page 3

Mitchell County, Iowa

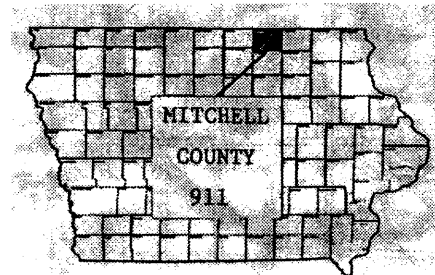


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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Section 7 page 4



2001 Iowa Transportation Map



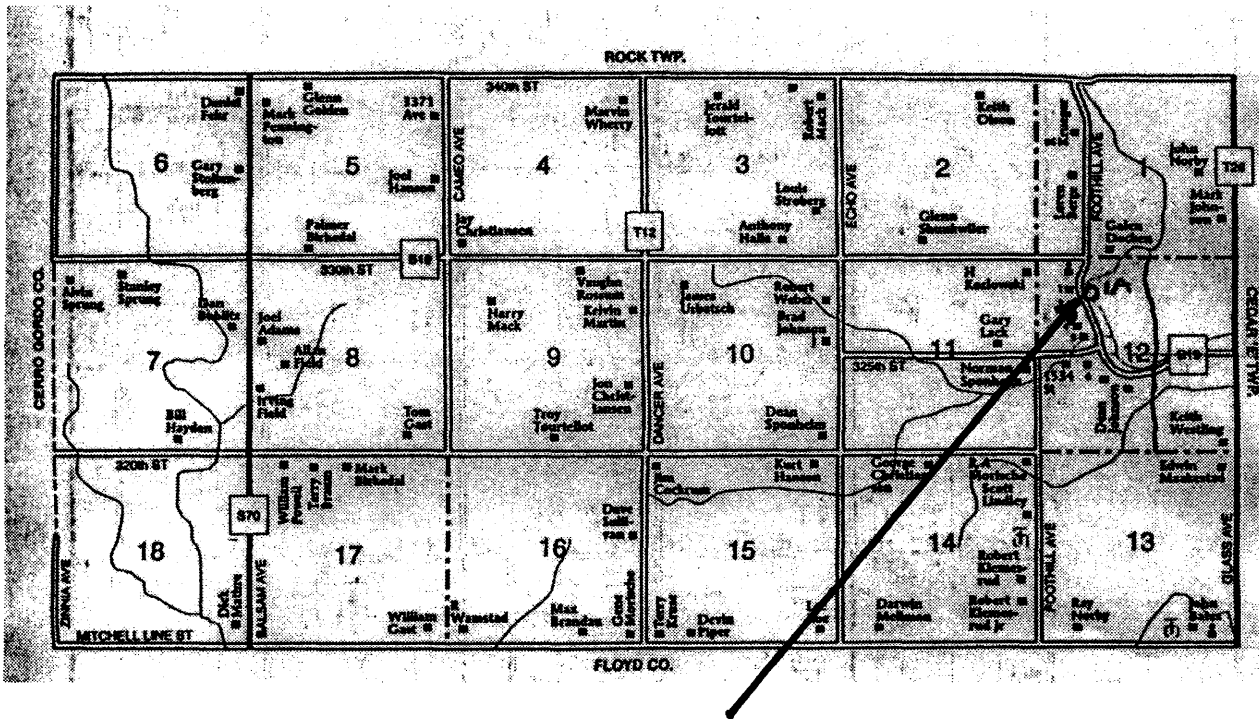
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Section 7 page 5



CEDAR TOWNSHIP  
of Mitchell County  
2001 Farm & Home Plat & Directory  
Farm & Home Publishers, LTD  
Belmond, Iowa



"1A" WALNUT GROVE SCHOOL  
W 1/2 OF NW 1/4 OF SECTION 12  
3272 Foothill Avenue, Osage, IA 50461

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Section 8 page 6

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**Significance**

The Walnut Grove School, built in 1873, is locally significant under Criteria A because today Walnut Grove is the only remaining structurally sound, unaltered, one-room rural school on its original site, in Mitchell County. In 1911 there were 88 one-room schools in Mitchell County. School was held continuously on this site from 1857, until the school's closing in 1946. Enrollment varied from five to thirty-three students. These students received systematic instruction in the basic curriculum for the period.

Walnut Grove School is located in a settlement called Meroa. Meroa is located seven miles from the county seat of Osage. Today Meroa has 6 homes, Rock Creek Lutheran Church, Rock Creek Cemetery, and Rock Creek Tree Service, and Walnut Grove School. In the last half of the 19th century Meroa had a general store with a post office, a blacksmith shop, the Rock Creek Cooperative Creamery, the Norwegian Lutheran Church, Rock Creek Cemetery, and Walnut Grove School. Meroa is in Cedar Township and by 1865 Cedar Township had a population of 410 people. Walnut Grove School sits across the road from the Rock Creek Lutheran Church. The "1872 Minutes of the Directors of Walnut Grove School" indicate the school was to be rebuilt in 1873. No reason was given but quoting from the minutes, "John Peterson approved the resolution that the township be requested to levy a tax on the taxable property of the district sufficient to raise the sum of \$250.00 in addition to the amount that remains in the treasury for the erection of a schoolhouse in this sub-district. After some discussion the resolution was adopted."

The first wave of settlers were able to come to the area of Cedar township as a result of an 1825 treaty the United States Government made with the Chippewa, Sac, Fox, Menominee, and the Winnebago Tribe. Due to intertribal fighting, it was agreed that the United States government should run a boundary line between the Sioux on the North, and the Sac and the Fox on the south, commencing at Prairie du Chien, with a line then extended westward to a point on the Big Sioux River. In 1830 another treaty was made in which the Sioux to the north ceded to the Government a strip of land 20 miles wide. The Sac and the Fox to the south did likewise, creating a buffer zone forty miles wide that extended across the northern tier of Iowa counties — including Mitchell County. It became known as the Neutral Zone.

Pioneers who settled in this Neutral Zone came from England, Norway, Germany, present day Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Ireland. By 1853 Norwegian pioneers, led by the Rev. C. L. Clausen, came to Cedar Township and settled along the banks of Rock Creek in the area now known as Meroa. Here they found good timber and rock for building their homes, and fertile ground to farm, ample grass for their livestock, and plenty of fish in the creek. Hamlin Garland wrote that as late as 1869 the prairie land in Mitchell County was a mass of waving grass as high as a man's head.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Section number 8 page 7

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**Significance continued**

Organized as a county in 1854, Mitchell County had a primitive educational system. The Reverend Claus L. Clausen was elected as the County Educational officer in August 1854. As educational officer, Clausen had control over schoolhouse funds. He was re-elected in 1856. The Norwegian settlers started the Walnut Grove School in 1857. There were 23 students by 1866 and 33 enrolled by 1872. It was in 1873 that the district levied a tax to get enough funds for a new school building.

During the years 1857-1946, Walnut Grove School was an important gathering place for the local people. Box socials, programs by students, such as the annual Christmas Program, Spring Program and Mother's Day Program; year end picnics; inter-school plays; and eighth grade graduation ceremonies, all brought the community to a common place to enjoy fellowship. Ruby Carter taught Walnut Grove during the period of 1942-1946 and she wrote as many as 50 people attended Christmas Programs and 90 attended year-end school picnics. Seven students were enrolled the final year of 1946. Walnut Grove was considered a school where children received quality education with strong support from the community. Attending these school events were the parents of the children, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins and neighbors. Rock Creek Lutheran Vacation Church School was held in Walnut Grove School during the summers from 1919 until the mid 1930s.

Consolidation of the larger school districts, transportation provided by the larger districts, and the rising costs of maintaining the smaller independent schools like Walnut Grove, all entered into the final decision to close the Walnut Grove School. The state did not pass legislation until 1955 that required a school district to be part of a four-year high school. This independent school district chose to be part of a four-year high school district 10 years before the Iowa law required such.

Since the school's closing in 1946, until interested citizens purchased it in 1997, the school building served the community as a polling place and township hall. Starting in 1999 and each consecutive year through the year 2001, school children from St. Ansgar and Osage have spent a portion of one school day in the Walnut Grove School.

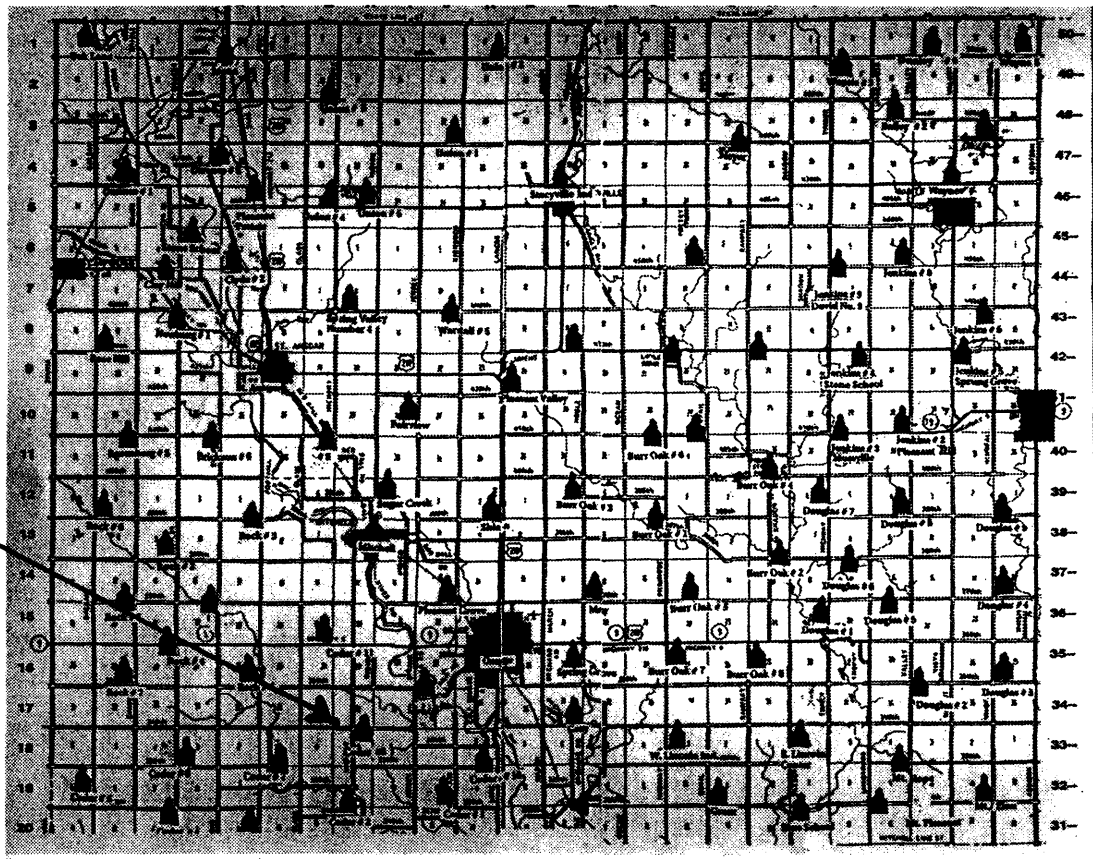
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



Walnut Grove,  
Mitchell County, Iowa

Section 8 page 8



In 1911 there were 88 one room schools in Mitchell County. Each school silhouette in the map above indicates the location of a school. This map was taken from 1911 Standard Historical Atlas of Mitchell County, Iowa, published by the Anderson Publishing Co. Map & Atlas Pub. Chicago, Ill 1911.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Section 10 Page 10

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

The school is located at 3272 Foothill Avenue, Osage, Iowa 50461  
W 1/2 of NW 1/4 of Section 12 of Cedar township 97 Range 18W

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the parcel of land historically associated with the school.