

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED **AUG 27 1979**
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DATE ENTERED

**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

Avoca Public School, District 28

AND/OR COMMON

Avoca School Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Cole Ave. and 2nd St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Avoca

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

MN

CODE

22

COUNTY

Murray

CODE

101

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: not used

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Village of Avoca

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Avoca

VICINITY OF

STATE

MN

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds, Murray County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Broadway at 28th

CITY, TOWN

Slayton

STATE

MN

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The red brick, two-story Avoca school stands on a wooded corner lot toward the south end of the main commercial street. The building is rectangular in plan with a projecting front facade entrance. The school has a raised basement of rough cut stone. A stone water table projects above the basement.

Fenestration on both floors is dominated by tall, double-hung windows. Both ends of the building have rows of three such windows on each floor. The rear wall has two sets of paired windows on each floor. In each end gable are five small arched windows that add greatly to the building's design. The larger windows have heavy stone sills and lintels.

Entrance is through the front facade. This facade, with its gable roof, extends out from the major portion of the building. A small paneled door is located in the side of the extension. The main entrance has a newer glass door.

The original bell tower sits atop the extended facade gable. The original bell is still in place.

Brick detailing highlights the structure. A patterned brick belt course extends around the building between the two floors. Similar patterned brick accentuates the gable ends and arched windows. The stepped brick cornice and decorated pedimented gables make the building distinctive in comparison to later brick schools of the area.

A spiral fire escape has been added to the rear of the building. Aside from that and the new door, the exterior retains its original integrity.

The interior consists of four classrooms flanking wide, open stairway. The building has metal ceilings and plaster walls. Lighting has been changed to flourescent bulbs.

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 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1894 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Avoca school is one of the nicest school buildings found in southwestern Minnesota. Many of the larger brick structures have been razed to make way for more modern buildings.

The school is last in a long line of interesting educational buildings in Avoca. Avoca was established as a center of one of Bishop John Ireland's Catholic Colonization Bureau colonies. In 1883 Bishop Ireland opened the Academy of St. Rose of Lima, one of the earliest academies in the western part of the state. Attendance was low, so in 1884 Ireland signed a contract with the United States government to run an educational institution for Sioux Indian girls. This functioned until 1893. Later the school was a boy's military academy. In 1910 the frame building burned down.

School District 28, the first public school in Avoca was established in 1879 and operated out of a parish hall. Increases in attendance led to construction of the brick Avoca school building in 1894. The school operated until 1970, when consolidation closed the school. Students are now bused to Fulda and Slayton.

The Village of Avoca owns the school and is searching for an appropriate use. The building should be preserved for its architectural merit in a small (pop. 200) town and its association with a long history of Avoca as an educational center.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Avoca

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 287560 4869190

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 4 & 5, Block 13, Original Plat

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. H.L. Matson, Secretary

ORGANIZATION

Committee of Avoca Federated Women's Club

DATE

3/5/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

(507)-335-7800

CITY OR TOWN

Avoca

STATE

MN

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Russell W. Fridley

TITLE Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

8/14/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

for *Carol Skell*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10-16-79

ADJEST: *W. Ray Lane*
for CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

oct 16, 1979