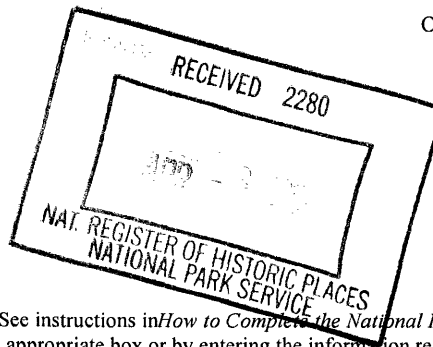


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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**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 South Prairie Community Hall

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 177th Ave SW N/A not for publication

city or town Minot vicinity

state North Dakota code ND county Ward code 101 zip code 58701

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

4-26-06
Date

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:

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): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson W. Beall 6-7-06

South Prairie Community Hall
Name of Property

Ward, North Dakota
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>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD

walls STUCCO

roof ASPHALT

other _____

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet

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.)

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.)

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 of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

SOUTH PRAIRIE COMMUNITY HALL; HOME OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1920-1942

Significant Dates

1920

1942

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

South Prairie Community Hall
Name of Property

Ward, North Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	14	328667	5324725	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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 Lorraine Smith
organization South Prairie Community Hall Association date 11/2005
street & number 701 - 177th Ave SE / 602 21st St NW telephone 701-722-3317 / 701-839-7084
city or town Minot state ND zip code 58701/58703

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 South Prairie Community Hall Association
street & number 701 - 177th Ave SE telephone _____
city or town Minot state ND zip code 58701

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine 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 (16 U.S.C. 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7, 8 Page 1

South Prairie Community Hall
Ward County, ND

Description

The South Prairie Community Hall is a one-story, large, rectangular building of wood-frame construction with a front-gabled roof. An entry block, with a slightly lower gable sits to the front (south) of the building. It is set in the open prairie of Ward County south of Minot. It sits on County Road 20, facing south on a two-acre plot bounded on three sides by trees. The South Prairie School is next door.

The hall is set on a wood foundation (post-and-beam), with a concrete-floored partial basement under the stage. Originally, the foundation was a full concrete basement. The wood foundation is in the process of being covered with cement boards which, when painted, will blend with the stucco of the building. The hall was moved from its original site at the intersection of Highway 83 and County Road 20 when Highway 83 was widened in 1988.

The exterior walls are tan stucco and are original. Originally, the hipped roof was covered with cedar shingles. Asphalt shingles have replaced the cedar. The front entrance block consists of a central entry door surmounted by a 5-light transom and flanked by fixed single pane windows. The approach now consists of a wood ramp leading to a small porch with a single entrance door. This replaces the original concrete steps and stoop and double doors. This change was made when the building was moved in 1988.

Windows are wood, 1:1 double-hung sash, four per side. Small hopper-style sash grace the south end of the hall. Two glass panes have been replaced, to repair broken panes, but the windows are otherwise in original condition.

The front door opens into an entry room. The large hall area is behind this. The ceiling, walls, and floor are all of wood. A large stage fills the north end. A kitchen and store room are at the south end. The original paint colors were restored in 1997. The benches, tables, and chairs are mostly original.

The original hall site was one acre facing east on US Highway 83. There were no trees, only a lilac bush. Two outhouses (one each for boys and girls) and a small red barn was also present on the site originally, but had been gone for years before the hall was moved. The present site of two acres has trees on the east side, marking the school grounds boundary. The north and west boundaries are marked by trees recently planted by the Soil Conservation Service. Though the move does damage, somewhat, the integrity of setting and location, the intersection of County Road 20 and Highway 83 has always been considered the center of the South Prairie Community (see map 1).

The hall maintains integrity of setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It has lost integrity of location. It maintains integrity of design despite no longer having a basement.

Statement of Significance

In the early 1920s and for about 50 years thereafter, there were five local township and community halls in the rural areas south of Minot, Ward County, North Dakota. The South Prairie Community Hall, a wood-framed stucco structure, is the last one still in existence. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, for its importance to the social history of this farming area, as well as being representative of a type of building that typifies agricultural recreation in the first half of the twentieth century. Though it was moved in 1988, when highway 83 was widened, its location is still near the center of the South Prairie community; it has integrity of setting, if not location.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

South Prairie Community Hall
Ward County, North Dakota

Statement of Significance (continued)

The South Prairie area covers roughly seven townships south of Minot in Ward County. There were five community or township halls in the early half of the 20th century. The groups did not hold joint activities, but members were free to attend events at other halls and frequently did. South Prairie was one of the more active in the area.

The hall was built between 1920 and 1922 by the South Prairie Community Club. It was originally called the Clubhouse. All club activities were held there. Nearly everyone in the community was a member. The designer of the building is unknown. A building committee organized the volunteer labor that constructed the majority of the hall. Some materials were donated, as well, and the project was popular among community members. The large open area of the community center lent itself well to many uses.

The first event (1922) was a banquet to honor the Minot businessmen who had contributed to the cost of the building. The hall soon became the center of community life and was well-known far and wide. There were business meetings of all kinds, special speakers, musical programs, graduations, talent plays, traveling entertainers, church services, fund-raising events, township and general elections, basketball games, school programs, dances, picnics, organized youth groups, Ladies' Aid and Homemaker's meetings, and even roller skating. These were the years in which radio was just beginning and television was yet to be; community life was strong.

In these years, the farms in the community were full of young people: teenagers and young adults who were not in school or working "out" because there were no jobs. The hall was the place to socialize. Many local couples traced their first meeting to the hall. That led to the further use of the hall for wedding dances and receptions. Older couples held their silver and gold wedding anniversary parties there, too.

By 1942, a declining Community Club turned the hall over to the Freedom Farmer's Union, the local that covered the same area as the Club had. The local carried the same rate of activities as the club had until the new South Prairie School and gymnasium was built in 1960. For about two years, all the work of planning and organizing the new school district was done from the hall by boards, committees, and speakers. After this, the hall was maintained for official elections, storage, and occasional events. The last big event held in the hall was the dance, held in conjunction with the community's celebration of the American Bicentennial in 1976; three generations danced together that night.

By 1980, volunteer committees had gathered because of a shared desire to restore and preserve the hall. Fund-raising and promotion activities resulted in the formation of the South Prairie Community Hall Association in 1986. The Ward County Centennial celebration included in their pageant a skit called "The Clubhouse," performed by the South Prairie Community Hall Association. In 1989, the Association was recognized as an official Centennial Project by the North Dakota State Centennial committee; recognition included a grant.

In 1988, U.S. Highway 83 was widened from 2 to 4 lanes. The land that the hall stood on was needed for this expansion. The South Prairie Community Hall Association asked for donations to save and move the building. Two acres of land adjoining the South Prairie School were purchased from the Drawz farm and the Nienow Brothers Construction Company, of Minot, moved the building to its current location.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8, 9, 10 Page 3

South Prairie Community Hall Ward County, North Dakota

Statement of Significance (continued)

Since then, there has been a community picnic held at the hall each year with music, programs, dancing, and food. Fund-raising and volunteer work has led to good progress; work sessions have become a social event of their own. The hall has since housed committee meetings, special programs, a co-op education meeting, a farm education meeting, and even a bridal shower; many visits and inquiries are made each year. In 1993, the hall was part of a huge rural schools reunion which was attended by over 500 people. It houses a growing archive of local historical records.

The South Prairie Community Hall is the only remaining building of what used to be a vital social network in southern Ward county. It embodies the history of a different time, but is inspiring re-use today.

Bibliography

Minot-Ward County Centennial Book Committee. People, Places & Events: Minot, Ward County: Bridging the Century (100 Years of Magic: 1886-1986). Winnipeg: Inter-Collegiate Press, 1985.

South Prairie History Committee. People of the Prairie: A Patchwork History of the South Prairie Area in Ward County, North Dakota. Minot, ND: South Prairie History Committee, 1982.

Verbal boundary description

The two acre plot is bounded on the east by the South Prairie School's mature tree grove, on the north and west by the Soil Conservation Service-planted tree rows, and on the south by county highway 20.

Verbal boundary justification

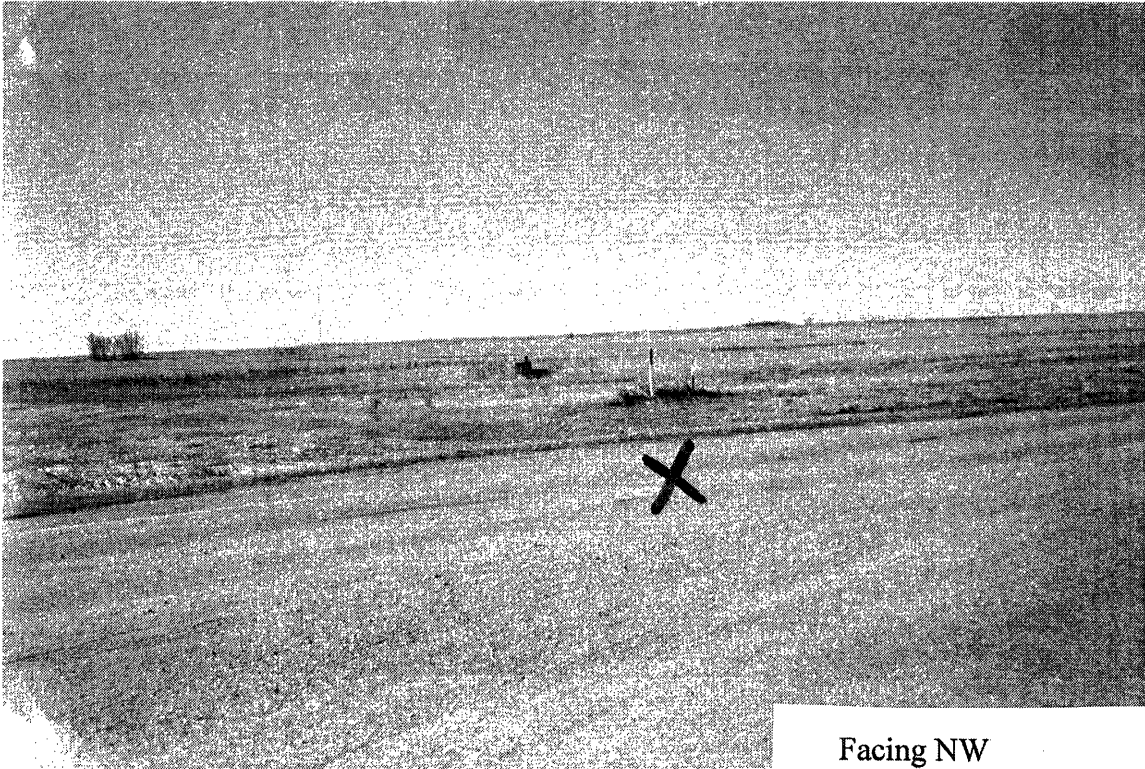
This two acre plot was purchased from the Drawz farm in the late 1980s because they abutted the South Prairie Community School and the two building would make a good community center complex. The location is about half a mile from the original location of the Hall. The intersection of county highway 20 and U.S. Highway 83 has been considered the center of the community for many years. The hall was threatened when Highway 83 was widened and the land it stood on was needed for this expansion.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

South Prairie Community Hall
Ward County, North Dakota

Section number _____ Page 4



Original site marked
with "x"

Facing NW



Photos taken
by Lorraine
Smith
3/2006

Facing E

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

South Prairie Community Hall
Ward County, North Dakota

Section number _____ Page 5



Photo of Hall
on original site
facing NW
1953
photographer
unknown



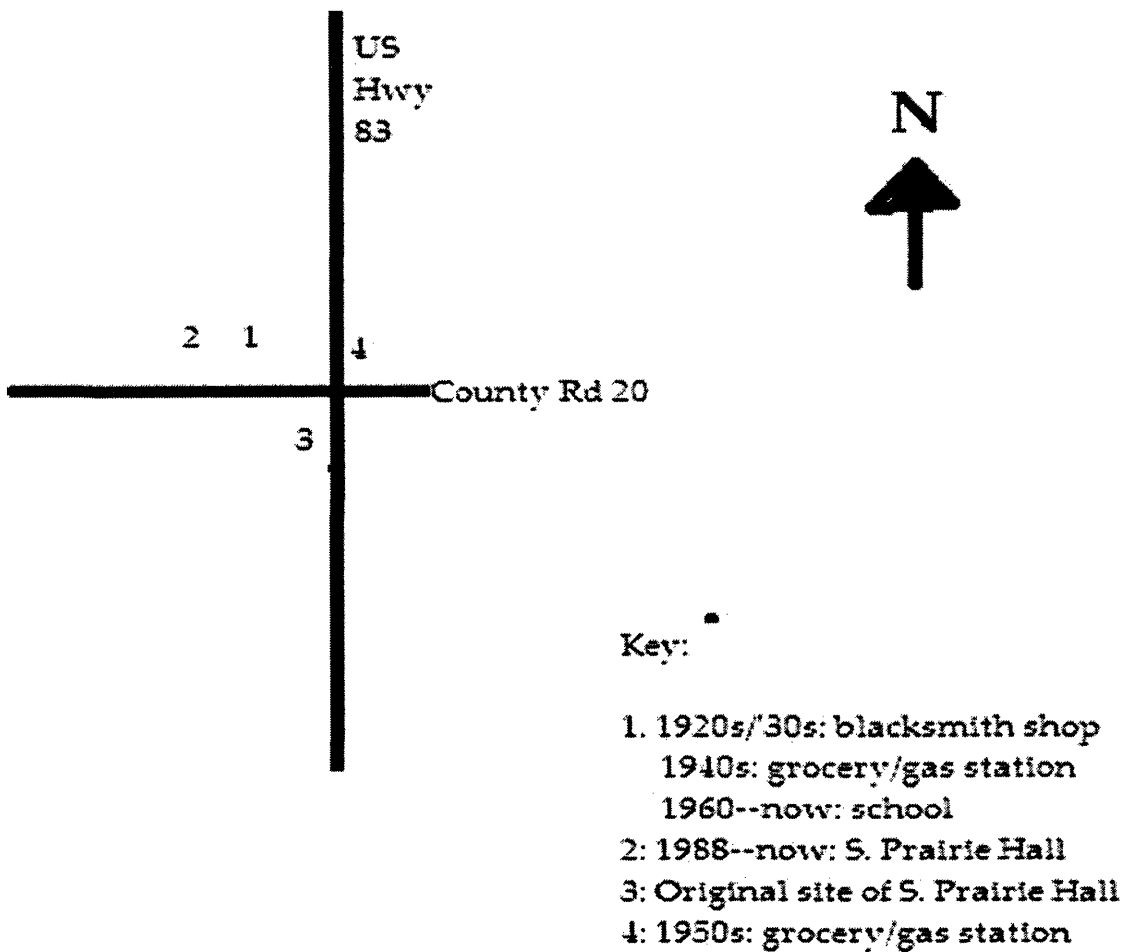
Photo of Hall
on original site
shows original
steps
1938
photographer
unknown

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page 6

South Prairie Community Hall
Ward Co., North Dakota



South Prairie Community Hall, Ward County, ND
Map 1