

PH0507113

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 15 1977
DATE ENTERED MAR 29 1978

**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

Delfelder School House, (Delfelder Hall)

AND/OR COMMON

Delfelder Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NW 1/4 Section 12, T1N, R4E, Wind River Meridian

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Riverton

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Wyoming

56

Fremont

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Delfelder Hall Association

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 493

CITY, TOWN

Riverton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming 82501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fremont County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Amoretti and Second Streets

CITY, TOWN

Lander

STATE

Wyoming 82520

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wyoming Recreation Commission, Survey of Historic Sites, Markers and Monuments

DATE

1967; revised 1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Wyoming Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Delfelder Hall is located in the Wind River Valley of Wyoming, at a point four miles north of the town of Riverton. Facing west, the hall is a large (82' 5" x 24' 5"), rectangular, one-story, stuccoed building. It has a hipped roof that is intersected at the middle on the west side by a cross gable over the main, double-door entryway. Both the main roof and the cross gable are covered with asbestos shingles. The roof is penetrated by a small brick chimney and two metal ventilators, the latter located on the ridge. The west, or main, elevation of the building contains fourteen window openings and a large transom, all presently boarded up. On the rear, or east side, of the building is attached a small shed-roofed addition, to which is attached a smaller, gable-roofed addition.

The entryway leads into a small vestibule which, in turn, opens to the main hall. The interior is divided into two spaces: a kitchen (30' x 23') in the south end, and a meeting room (50' x 23') in the north end. Interior walls and ceilings are plastered and painted. The floor of the meeting room is oak and that of the kitchen is pine. In 1943 alterations were made in the main section by the removal of partitions separating two classrooms, and by the construction of two small restrooms at its south end. In 1946 the hall was painted inside and out, the attic insulated, storm windows installed, and the roof covered with asbestos shingles. When the Grange acquired a lease on the hall in 1968, other improvements were made: a central heating system, augmented by three space heaters, was installed. Double sinks were added to the kitchen, fluorescent lights were hung from the ceiling, and some furniture was purchased from Grange members.

At times in the past a custodian occupied a portion of the building. When that practice was discontinued, acts of vandalism occurred in which the windows of the building were broken. As a result the Grange offered a free mobile home space near the hall and the vandalism was stopped.

Delfelder Hall displays no particular architectural style or merit. It is a plain, but apparently sound, building that derives its significance from its role in local history.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES January 10, 1921

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Westerlund and Schodin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On September 8, 1908, about two years following the founding of Riverton, Mary J. Freeman filed on a 160-acre homestead located four miles north of the town. Early in March, 1909, Mary's residence, located north of the present Delfelder Hall Building, was used as a school that was taught by a teacher named Miss Jordan. The Freeman residence was the first of three schools located on that piece of land.

In 1910 the Freeman property was sold to Jacob Delfelder, from whom the hall derives its name. Delfelder's property became mortgaged, and was involved in litigation that finally was settled in the Wyoming Supreme Court, and in 1939 it passed into the ownership of Fremont County School District #25. On August 7, 1920 the directors of the school district let a contract to the firm of Westerlund and Schodin for the construction of a four-room school house to cost \$8,600. By the time the Delfelder Consolidated School opened on January 10, 1921, the second school built on the property had been sold and moved away. Delfelder Consolidated School was open for a period of eight years, and was officially closed on June 7, 1929 because modern means of transportation allowed students to attend schools in town.

Although it was built as a school, the Delfelder building also served as a community social center. For two or three years programs were held there by the Delfelder League, a local community organization. Twice each month during the winter the League held socials in which skits, dialogues and music recitals were presented, followed by dancing. Sometimes the affairs were pie socials and box suppers, and on occasion midnight lunches were eaten while children slept on benches covered with coats. These gatherings were attended by not only residents of the rural countryside, but also by people from the town of Riverton.

On April 10, 1940 local residents held a meeting at the school building and formed the Delfelder Hall Association, with Luther Sproule acting as temporary chairman and Laura Rock acting as temporary secretary. The purpose of the organization, which was composed of any who cared to join, was to acquire, hold, and keep in repair the Delfelder School for the use and benefit of the community in holding religious, charitable, social and educational functions. The first elected officers of the Association were: Luther Sproule, President; Laura Rock, Secretary; and Laura Rock, D. T. Botts, Oscar N. Nicholson, and L. J. Scheurman, Directors. The Delfelder School building was purchased by the Association for \$575, an amount which, together with the cost of building modifications, was paid in part by funds raised through turkey dinners and dances. The debt on the purchase was fully paid by January, 1943. Other Association fund-raising efforts, for the purpose of improving and maintaining the building, took the form of pie socials, card parties, and farm sales. Members of the Association also raised money over the years by

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorded Minutes and Files, Delfelder Hall Association; Route 1, Box 360, Riverton, Wyoming.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.49 acres *less than 1000*

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 714885 4773280
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A tract of land situated in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 12, T1N, R4E, beginning at a point on the east line of the highway, 239 ft. south and 40 ft. east of the northwest corner of said Sec. 12, thence south along said highway 304 ft., thence, east at right angles there to 212.5 ft., thence north 304 ft., thence, west 212.5 ft. to the point of the beginning. Together with all improvements thereon. This tract of land contains 1.49 acres.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY 2 people

NAME / TITLE

1. January 25, 1977

1. Winnie M. Bausch, Secretary 2. Mark Junge, Historian

2. March 30, 1977

ORGANIZATION

DATE 1. not stated

Riverton Valley Grange

Wyoming Recreation Comm.

2. (307) 777-7695

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route 1, Box 493

604 East 25th St.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Riverton, Wyoming 82501

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

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

San K. Wilson

TITLE

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

October 27, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST *W. H. ...*

DATE 3-29-78

DATE 3-17-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Delfelder School ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

cooking and serving at banquets for other organizations, such as the Lions Club.

Over the years the hall has been open, for rent, to anyone in the community. Fremont County election officers have used the hall as a polling place, and the Riverton Fire Protection District and various irrigation districts have also used the hall for elections within their own organizations. Members of the Riverton Valley Women's Extension Club and Four-H, or rural youth organizations, have also utilized the hall. Another group which has held its meetings at the hall, and whose members have donated labor and materials for the maintenance and improvement of the building, is the Riverton Valley Grange, which in 1968 obtained a long-term lease on the building. The Grange meets there twice each month, and the Fremont County Pamona Grange meets at the hall once a month. Each fall Riverton Valley honors the Riverton Volunteer Firemen and their wives with a dinner, as a token "Thank You" to them for their community service. At least one wedding, several fiftieth wedding anniversary celebrations, and a funeral have also been held in Delfelder Hall.

Delfelder Hall should be included in the National Register because of its historical role as the site of an early educational institution in the Riverton Valley, but particularly because of its long history as a rural community meeting house. It has been a place where citizens representing a variety of organizations have gathered together for entertainment and for the social, political and economic advancement of the community. In that many persons have worked many hours on fund-raising projects to support the maintenance and improvement of Delfelder Hall, the building is also an historical example of public spirit, of cooperation between people in a particular geographic area. That spirit of cooperation is reflected in projects completed in the past, and it is hoped that spirit will continue and that the hall will be preserved. Enrollment of the building in the National Register can provide assistance to those who want to preserve that spirit by preserving the Delfelder Hall.

THE STATE



OF WYOMING

ED HERSCHLER
GOVERNOR

Wyoming Recreation Commission

604 EAST 25TH STREET

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

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VICE PRESIDENT
Dubois 82513

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JAN L. WILSON

Acting Director

777-7695

January 9, 1978

Mr. William Murtagh, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a change necessary in the Delfelder School House (Delfelder Hall) nomination submitted to you last year. According to Mr. Ray Luce, the nomination is currently under review by your staff.

The change relates to Section 10, "Geographical Data", on page four of the nomination form. The phrase "less than one acre" ought to be substituted for the present figure, 1.49 acres. The property nominated for enrollment should be only the building itself, and I understand that since the property is less than one acre, no verbal boundary description is necessary. Therefore the present boundary description ought to be deleted.

I hope this letter may serve as an addendum to the nomination. However, if you need further information concerning the Delfelder School House nomination, please let me know and I will be happy to provide whatever I can. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan L. Wilson".

Jan L. Wilson, Acting Director and
Wyoming State
Historic Preservation Officer

JLW:mlr