

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received MAY 16 1984

date entered JUN 14 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Valentine Public School (CE14=2)

and/or common Centennial Hall

2. Location

street & number 3rd and Macomb Streets, na not for publication

city, town Valentine na vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Cherry code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Centennial Hall Corp., c/o Harriet Cozad, Chairman

street & number 810 East 9th Street

city, town Valentine na vicinity of state Nebraska 69201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cherry County Courthouse

street & number na

city, town Valentine state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title na has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date na 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 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 na
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Valentine Public School is a two-story, brick building with stone foundation and hipped roof which exhibits a combination of Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival. It was built in 1897 - 98 to serve the educational needs of primary and secondary students of Cherry County School District No. 1, which included the city of Valentine.

The school building is relatively unchanged since the addition on the rear (north) facade was completed in 1908.

Valentine Public School: brick wall material with stone foundation; irregular shape; 64' x 79'; two stories plus basement; hipped roof with multiple hipped extensions; rock faced stone foundation; five-bay main (south) facade with western two bays projecting; central attached tower with prominent round-arched entrance emphasized by large voussoirs, stone plaque above entrance inscribed "A.D. 1897", doorway slightly recessed, 5-over-3 pane transom, tower slightly projects from wall, third-story of tower a focal point for the entire building with galvanized iron diaperwork frieze with three round arches and three louvered openings, a pyramidal roof on the tower; the window openings are three-over-two with round arches on the first floor; the original building was somewhat T-shaped with three large classrooms per floor; the 1908 addition added one classroom per floor on the northeast corner of the building; the addition copied the wall, window, and roof treatment of the original; two prominent, plain brick, interior chimneys; 1897-98 with 1908 addition; Queen Anne style; Charles F. Beindorff, Omaha, architect, and A. H. Dyer, Fremont, architect of the 1908 addition.

The school served the combined functions of primary and secondary education. One of the six original classrooms was designated the "high school" on the 1897 blueprint; the other five were for the primary school. Few examples of this building type have been isolated in the Nebraska Historic Building Survey to date, possibly because few examples survive.

The Valentine school building was used by the school district until 1980. It was then held vacant and slated for demolition, until a group of alumni organized as a non-profit corporation in December, 1982, and raised funds to purchase the building. Plans are being considered to use the building for various community functions.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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	1897; 1908	Builder/Architect	Charles F. Beindorff, architect Fletcher & Stolze, builders A. H. Dyer, architect of 1908 addition
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)			

The Valentine Public School is significant to the architectural history of Nebraska as one of the few 19th century school buildings extant in the state, particularly for its size (two-story) and material (brick). In addition, its original use as a school for first grade through high school is a relatively rare building type, of which few examples still exist. Stylistically the school is important for its Queen Anne character combined with Romanesque Revival elements.

The establishment of a public educational system was as important in Nebraska as in any other newly settled area. Considering the significance of this development, very few 19th century school buildings are extant in Nebraska. Two 19th century one-room schoolhouses are currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places (District No. 10 School, rural Jefferson County, and Camp Creek School, rural Otoe County); however no other 19th century school buildings have yet been listed. The 1893–94 Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction stated that there were 1894 schoolhouses, of which 294 were brick. A minority of one- or two-room schoolhouses were probably brick, but a number of the brick buildings were undoubtedly of a size similar to the Valentine school. All were two-story. The Nebraska Historic Building Survey has identified, to date, less than ten extant 19th century two-story schools; the Valentine building is the only one currently known, built of brick.

School buildings erected to house primary and secondary classes are even more rare within the survey. A structure of this type presumably filled a need for communities of a size where all classes could fit into one building. The high school program was not yet developed enough to need a separate building. This was the case with Valentine, where the "high school" was assigned one room on the original floor plan. In 1896 Valentine was accredited by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide two years of approved high school work. The Valentine school is the only building of this type identified in the survey to date which has retained enough integrity to be eligible for the National Register.

The bond issue to build the Valentine school was approved on February 5, 1897, by a wide margin, with both local newspapers in support. The plans were drawn by Omaha architect, Charles F. Beindorff, and originally called for a stone building. When bids were submitted, a brick structure was found to be cheaper, so contractor Fletcher and Stolze of Ainsworth and Valentine were awarded the contract to erect the building of Norfolk (Nebraska) brick. Construction was completed in the spring of 1898, and the school was occupied shortly thereafter. The attendance records for the school show that eleven grades were listed in the building until 1909. The only exceptions were the years 1900 and 1909 when twelve grades were held and the seniors graduated in the spring. A. H. Dyer of Fremont designed a rear addition in 1908 for more classroom space. In

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation sheet).

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Valentine, Nebraska - South Dakota

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 2, block 1, Cornell School Addition, City of Valentine, Cherry County, Nebraska; the property historically associated with the building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	na	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Penelope Chatfield Sodhi, Preservation Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date March, 1984

street & number 1500 "R" Street telephone (402) 471-3270

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 *Mervin D. Kinnett* 5/7/84

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

<u><i>Julia Alvares Byers</i></u>	date	<u>6-14-84</u>
Keeper of the National Register		

Attest: _____ date

Chief of Registration _____

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1922 a new high school building was constructed. The 1897 - 98 building continued to be used by the school district as a grade school and then as a high school annex until 1980. It was vacant and scheduled for a demolition, when the Centennial Hall Corporation, a non-profit company, purchased the building to preserve an important part of Valentine's past for new community needs.

Architect Beindorff designed the school in a hybridization of the Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival styles. The irregular plan, the projecting from bays, complicated roofline, stone foundation, and tower recall the Queen Anne style; treatments of which are more commonly found in Nebraska's residential architecture (i.e. Eddy-Taylor House, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, NRHP, 7-21-83). The Romanesque Revival features are emphasized to a lesser degree, the primary focus being the tower with a large round arch over the entrance emphasized by prominent stone voussoirs. The first floor windows are all round-arched while the second floor ones are straight-topped. All windows are an unusual three-over-two pane arrangement. Distinctive features include the panelled frieze near the cornice and the tin diaperwork on the tower's third floor. The 1908 addition was sensitively designed to continue these characteristics.

Charles F. Beindorff (1863-1898) was one of Omaha's promising young architects of the 1890's until his sudden death as the age of 35. He received several important commissions, such as the Omaha City Hall (1893) and the Omaha Club (1893). A native of Omaha, he received most of his training as an apprentice and draughtsman in the offices of Omaha architects. He also was a special architecture student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the year 1882-83, a common practice at the time, but he did not complete the full architecture course. Two of the buildings he designed are listed in the National Register: the Edgar Zabriskie House, Omaha, and the Mercer Hotel in the "Old Market" Historic District, Omaha.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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Valentine Republican. January, 1897 to March 1898. Various articles on the school supplied by Mrs. Harriet Cozad, Valentine.

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Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture since 1780. Cambridge, Mass.: The M.I.T. Press, 1969.