

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 Manley School

Other names/site number District 96 School, CC08-005

### 2. Location

Street & number 115 Cherry Street

Not for publication

City or town Manley

Vicinity

State Nebraska

Code NE

County Cass

Code 025

Zip code 68043

### 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.)

Lawrence Sommer  
Signature of certifying official

11/15/04  
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society  
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 certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall

12/30/04

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**Manley School**

Name of Property

**Cass County, Nebraska**

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>          </u>	Buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	Sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	Structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	Objects
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	Total

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

Historic & Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Craftsman  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Concrete  
Walls Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roof Asphalt  
Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

Manley School

Name of Property

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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.)

- X 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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Period of Significance

1931-1954

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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 for additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local Government
University
Other
Name of repository:

Manley School

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 1.75

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	738527	4533578	3.			
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 Marisa Kosobucki/ Historian

organization Heritage Research, Ltd.

date August 2004

street & number N89 W16785 Appleton Avenue

telephone (262)-251-7792

city or town Menomonee Falls

state WI

zip code 53051

**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/title Manley Public School District #96

street & number 115 Cherry Street

telephone (401)-234-5234

city or town Manley

state NE

zip code 68403

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 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.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**Manley School**

Name of Property

**Cass County, Nebraska**

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### Description

Manley School is located on the west side of Manley (pop. 191)<sup>1</sup>, which is centrally located in Cass County in eastern Nebraska. Situated on the northeast corner of state highways 50 and 21, the Manley School is twenty miles south of the city of Omaha. The school is bounded by Cherry Street to the east, a tree line to the south, Elm Street to the west and a fence line to the north.

Constructed of brick, the Manley School is a 64x32-foot, one-story Craftsman building. Rectangular in form, this side-gabled structure features a projecting front-gabled entrance. Typical Craftsman characteristics evident on the Manley School consist of decorative false brackets in the gables and exposed roof rafters. A horizontal inlaid brick belt course separates the basement from the first-floor entrance. Windows have been replaced; however snap-in muntins give the appearance of multiple lights. Symmetrically placed stone ornamentation is featured on all facades of the Manley School.

The primary (south) facade features a projecting front entrance exhibiting a segmental-arch entrance surround with a symmetrical limestone inset. The engraved inset reads "MANLEY" and rests above a double wooden-panel doorway and boarded-over transom. Fenestration on this bay consists of the following: boarded-over basement level windows; narrow, four-over-one double-hung sashes; and a rectilinear Palladian-like window arrangement located in the gable. Windows located on the west and east facades of the entrance have been boarded over.

Identical wings flank the front entrance and feature symmetrical fenestration. Each wing consists of a fixed, single, nine-light window to either side of a central paired example along the basement level; both of the outer square windows are boarded over. From the entryway and working outward, the main floor features a single, nine-over-nine-light sash, a paired example of the same and, finally, a single square example.

The west and east facades feature identical and projecting, ground-level brick entrances capped with a stone coping, and accented by vertical limestone detail on the sides. Sets of three double-hung windows line the main floor, with fixed windows along the basement level. A circular, attic-story window is placed in the gabled peak of each end wall.

The rear (north) facade is dominated by a central brick chimney, which divides the elevation in half. Each half of the rear wall consists of three sets of paired sashes along the first floor, while the basement level carries a pair of fixed, multiple-light openings.

Today, the primary entrances are the west and east entrances. The original, primary entrance located on the south facade is no longer used; however, the exterior arrangement remains intact. The east entrance stairwell leads up to the first-floor classrooms or down to the basement; walking downstairs on this east end leads one to the original gymnasium, now considered a "multi-purpose" room. Heading west through a hallway leads to the lunch and music room on the left (south) and the furnace and storage on the right (north). Through the lunch and music room one can reach the girls/boys restrooms to the south. At the west end of this hallway is a Special Education room to the north, as well as additional closet space and stairs leading back up the first level.

The west stairwell leading to the first level brings one to the library, and further east to the 3rd-6th grade rooms. Doorways lead to a closet and teacher's room which are both located to the south. A doorway on the southeastern wall of the room leads to the original porch entrance that now holds a computer room, flanked by two bathrooms.

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<sup>1</sup> Manley population is quoted from the website, [http://www.factindex.com/m/ma/manley/\\_\\_\\_nebraska.htm/](http://www.factindex.com/m/ma/manley/___nebraska.htm/).

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Moving east on the second level, one comes to the K-2nd grade classroom. The layout is identical to the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade room with the same closet and work spaces to the south. A stairwell leads out to the east entrance.

Original wood flooring covers the first level; however, dropped modern ceilings have blocked the original ceiling and partially blocked the upper portions of the double-hung windows. The classrooms still retain their original wooden doors with transom hopper lights, wooden trim and detail. The Manley School interior remains intact except for the reorganization of the original primary entrance that transformed it into a computer room and the dropped ceilings in the classrooms. Overall the Manley School retains good physical integrity.

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Manley School  
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### Statement of Significance

The Manley School retains a good degree of integrity and is a fine example of the Craftsman style of architecture applied to a public building. The school has served educational purposes for over seventy years, and has adjusted to all changes in enrollment and educational practices without reducing the quality of the structure's exterior, as well as its indoor facilities. The Manley School continues to operate as an active school to this day. According to the guidelines of the multiple property document, *Historic and Architectural School Buildings of Nebraska*, it meets all requirements for the National Register of Historic Places for Criterion A: Education.

### Historical Context

The Manley School District 96 was created in 1888. Before this district was created, children in this area attended a school west of Manley in Grand Prairie; however, this school burned down and was moved further west. It was then, that Manley contained enough students to create District 96 and, in 1889, the first school building was constructed. This two-story cube building was very simple in plan with minimal windows and detail. Due to its poor condition, this structure was disassembled in January of 1931 and re-used in farm outbuildings at the home of George Kraft of Manley. The current school building was completed weeks prior to the demolition of the old school in the beginning of January 1931.<sup>2</sup>

Records for the school are not available until 1896, in which enrollment was at forty-five students. A steady gain resulted in a total of seventy-five students in 1904. Following 1904, enrollment at Manley School was highly erratic and, as needed, more staff was hired to accommodate the school size. Manley School housed grades K-10<sup>th</sup> until 1950 and, by the late 1960s, three teachers and a classroom in the basement were permanent additions. In 1982, grades 7th-8th were moved to nearby schools.<sup>3</sup>

Though some interior adjustments have been made to meet the needs of technology and class size, the Manley School still operates as an educational facility for grades K-6th. It has been in operation for over seventy years and has seen numerous generations of local families graduate from its classes. The community has not only used the school but has also cared for it. One graduate recalls her grandparents as the janitors for Manley School, and how they, "took such pride in their jobs and really cared about the children that attended the school." Students were even required to assist in the upkeep. As one student remembers..." Many times I went to the furnace and put corn cobs on the fire plus coal."<sup>4</sup>

Section F, Page 1 of the National Register Multiple Property Submission *Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska* states: "To qualify for the NRHP, the property must be an intact example of a school or related resource and should retain essential elements of the seven aspects of integrity..." and "Overall, the property must retain a high degree of physical integrity and should reflect its period of construction." "Finally, the MPS states: "The resource does not need to retain its historic function to be eligible...(and) can be eligible...under Criterion A for its historical association with education in Nebraska."<sup>5</sup>

Regarding Post-WWI construction, Section E, page 11 of the MPS states: New Curriculum requirements often affected the types of specialized teaching areas that were incorporated into the design of school buildings...For example, a rising concern of health and nutrition led to the inclusion of a gymnasium, lunchroom, and indoor bathrooms." In regard to architectural significance, Section E, Page 12 of the MPS continues: "By 1929, the Nebraska Department of Public Instruction published pamphlets promoting school design, including *Rural School Standards*." Under the Rural School

<sup>2</sup> Jane Graff, *Nebraska, Our Towns: East Southeast*. (Seward, NE: Second Century Publication, 1992), 30; *Plattsmouth Semi-Weekly Journal*, 19 January 1931, 2.

<sup>3</sup> Manley History Book Committee, *Manley, Nebraska: Center of Memories, 1883-1983* (Manley, NE: Manley History Book Committee, 1983), 49.

<sup>4</sup> *The Journal*, (Plattsmouth, NE) 31 May 2001, 4/1-2.

<sup>5</sup> "Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska." National Register Multiple Property Submission, Prepared by Mead & Hunt Inc., August, 2000. Quoted material is as restated in the "Inland School," National Register Nomination, Prepared by Bill Callahan for Nebraska Historic Preservation Office, December 2001, 8/1.

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Standards, "Plans for a standard two-featured a hipped roof with front shed roof dormer and central entry with front porch. The first floor included two classrooms, each with a library and storage area, bathrooms, and girls' and boys' wardrobes. The basement included a large playroom, furnace room, fuel room, and kitchen." Evidence has not been recovered to prove that the Manley School was a standard, and or a superior rural school; however its characteristics greatly match the qualifications that were necessary to be considered a standard or superior school in 1929.<sup>6</sup>

**Conclusion**

Since 1931, the Manley School has operated as an educational facility and is considered a significant historical resource for the town of Manley. According to the Multiple Property Nomination for Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska, it meets all requirements for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.



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**Bibliography**

Graff, Jane. *Nebraska, Our Towns: East Southeast*. Seward, NE: Second Century Publication, 1992.

"*Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska*." National Register Multiple Property Submission prepared by Mead & Hunt Inc., August 2000. Accepted by the National Register winter 2000.

"*Inland School*." National Register Submission prepared by Bill Callahan/Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, December 2001. Accepted by the National Register March 2002.

Manley History Book Committee, *Manley, Nebraska: Center of Memories, 1883-1983*. Manley, NE: Manley History Book Committee, 1983, p.49.

*Plattsmouth Semi-Weekly Journal*, 1930. Various articles see footnotes.

*The Journal*, (Plattsmouth, NE) 31, May 2001.

**Websites**

U.S. Bureau of Census. "Nemaha County, Nebraska." 2000 census information extracted from –  
[http://www.factindex.com/m/ma/manley/\\_\\_\\_nebraska.htm/](http://www.factindex.com/m/ma/manley/___nebraska.htm/) (Manley Population)

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**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the Manley School consists of the following: Cherry Street to the east, a tree line to the south, Elm Street to the west, and a fence line to the north.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Manley School includes the total area historically associated with the existing school building.

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The following information pertains to all photographs:

**MANLEY SCHOOL**

Manley, Cass County, Nebraska

Photograph by John N. Vogel

June 2004

Negative at Nebraska State Historical Society

Photograph #1 of 7

Context view

View to northeast

Photograph #2 of 7

Context view

View to northwest

Photograph #3 of 7

South elevation

View to north

Photograph #4 of 7

Detail of south elevation

View to north

Photograph #5 of 7

Context view

View to southeast

Photograph #6 of 7

View of K-2 classroom

View to northeast

Photograph #7 of 7

View of K-2 classroom

View to southwest